- **Metro / A22** Wife of Harrison Plaza heir: Fight not yet over
- **Sports / A27** UE Warriors stop Eagles' 7-game win streak
- **News / A3** Romulo reportedly "excited" about moving to DFA
- **Across / A17** 30 soldiers to be embedded in media
- **News / A2** MILF claims it drove JI members out of Lanao Sur
- **Lifestyle / F2** A toast to Pitoy Moreno and his 2-day fashion show at CCP

Lee Kuan Yew son takes over; Goh Chok Tong goes

SINGAPORE—Lee Hsien Loong, son of Singapore's independence leader Lee Kuan Yew, took his oath of office Thursday as the city-state's third prime minister.

Lee, 52, and his Cabinet ministers were sworn in by Chief Justice Yong Pung How on the front lawn of the Istana presidential palace in a televised ceremony attended by

LEE/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Joker's advice: Take a break, Madam President

By Michael Lim Ubac

KELANGAN NANG MAG PALAMIG NG ULO

TAKE a break, Madam. Please.

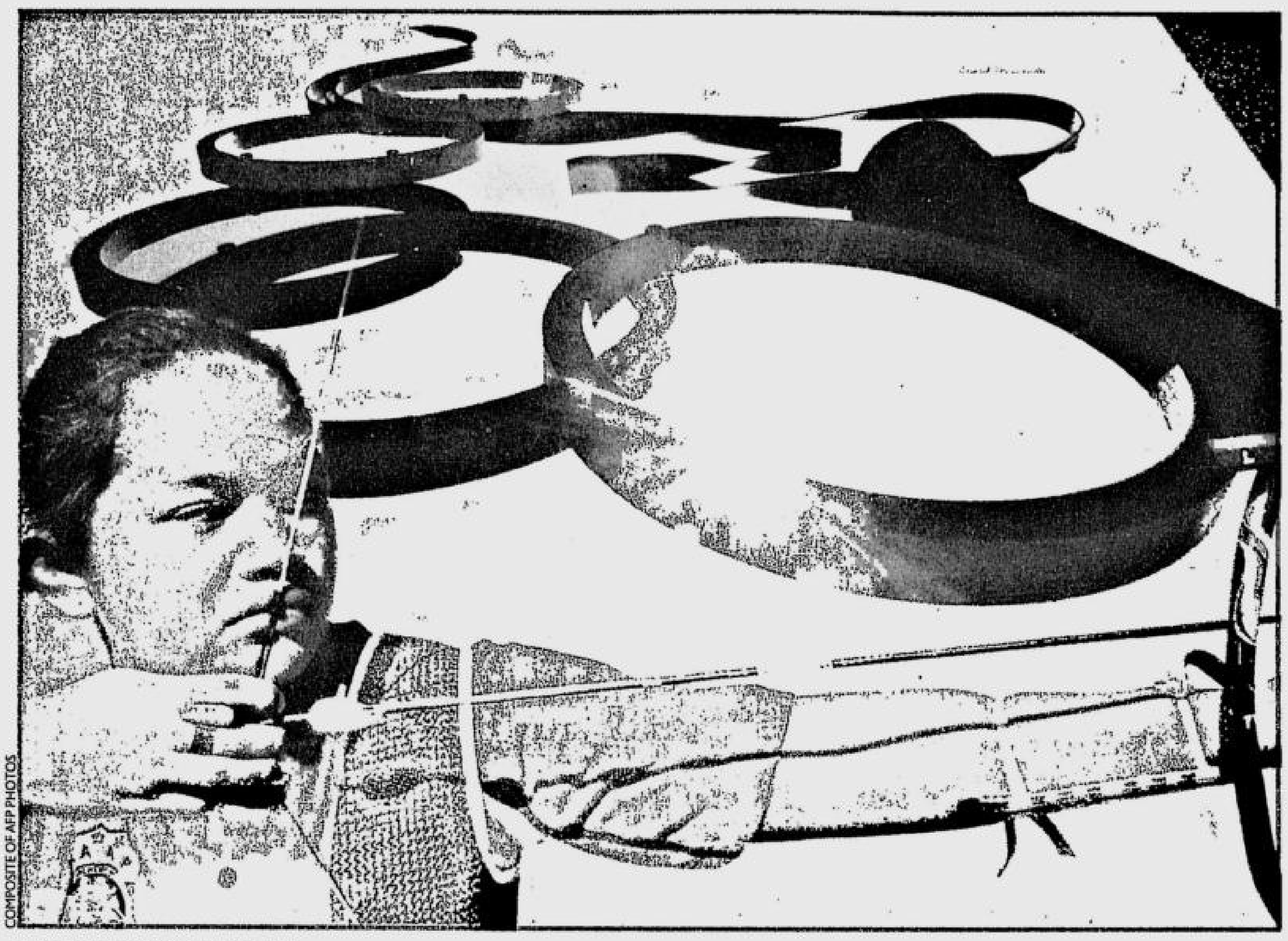
Or we may soon have a Cabinet of "nervous wrecks," Sen. Joker Arroyo counseled President Macapagal-Arroyo

JOKER'S/ A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Friday, August 13, 2004 ★★ 76 pages / 10 sections / vol. 19 / no. 247 P18
website: www.inq7.net

Gov't to sell vanity plates

DOTC plan starts next month to raise P3.5 billion



LET THE GAMES BEGIN
The 28th Olympic Games is off to a spectacular opening under a Calatrava roof that is considered an architectural marvel in Athens on Friday (1:45 a.m. Saturday in Manila). Archer Jasmin Figueroa, one of 16 Filipino athletes in the Olympiad, is shown in this composite photo. *(Story on Page A25.)*

CASHING in on the vanity of car owners is one revenue measure that taxpayers will certainly welcome because it will not hit their wallets.

An official of the Department of Transportation and Communication yesterday said that the government would offer "vanity plates" to car owners to generate P3.5 billion in additional revenue.

"It's a good source of income for the government," said Assistant Transportation Secretary Analy Lontoc.

Lontoc said personalized license plates would be offered at prices ranging from P10,000 to P50,000.

This would allow car owners to get plates with their own preferred "numbers" of as many as six letters or numerals. Those seeking such plates can sign up starting next month.

She would not say how many people were expected to apply for vanity plates.

Lontoc said the project was in line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's call to government offices to generate more income in order to reduce the budget deficit, which the government is hoping to contain at P198 billion, or 4.2 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) this year.

The Philippines has run up an P80.1-billion budget deficit in the first half of the year, already exceeding its target for the term of P79.6 billion.

The country has run a budget

GOV'T TO SELL/ A20

Mikey: No Kampi plot, others out to get JDV

By Cynthia D. Balana

WHILE vehemently denying that Malacañang was behind a rumored plot to unseat House Speaker Jose de Venecia, President Macapagal-Arroyo's son admitted that he knew of groups out to do just that.

Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo (Lakas, 2nd distrtict, Pampanga) called a press conference yesterday to rebut an INQUIRER report that at least 70 stalwarts of the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) left in three batches over the weekend and met in Hong Kong to discuss De Venecia's ouster.

He was a "loyal member" of the ruling party Lakas, and a staunch supporter of the Speaker's, the young Arroyo stressed. De Venecia was a primary sponsor at his wedding two years ago.

Unfortunately, the young Arroyo said, there were parties

MIKEY/ A20

Text power to report gov't grafters

By Armand N. Nocum

GRAFTERS in government may soon be just a text message away from getting suspended or dismissed from the service.

Capitalizing on the ubiquity of cellular phones in the country, the Office of the Ombudsman has decided to tap "text power" to empower citizens to fight graft and corruption.

The Office of the Ombudsman is putting up a system that would allow people to report graft by sending messages to designated cellular phone hotlines, according to Assistant Ombudsman Ernesto Nocos.

Nocos, also the spokesperson of the antigraft office, said any-

TEXT POWER/ A20

Talks to secure soldiers' release in homestretch

By Christian V. Esguerra and Carlito Pablo

THE POSTPONEMENT of the peace negotiations between the government and the communist-led National Democratic Front is not dampening the Arroyo administration's efforts to secure the freedom of two soldiers being held by the New People's Army.

Silvestre Bello III, head of the government's peace panel, yesterday said negotiations were still ongoing for the release of Lt. Ronaldo Fidelino and Pfc. Ronel Nemeño even if the Netherlands-based NDF had put off the talks scheduled on Aug. 24-30.

Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (LP, Camarines Sur) told the INQUIRER that negotiations for the two soldiers' release were "now on the homestretch."

"The captives may be released hopefully next week," said Andaya, who reluctantly admitted for the first time yesterday that he was serving as the main broker for the release of Fidelino and Nemeño.

The assistance of Andaya, a third-term legislator and chair of the powerful House committee on appropriations, was previous-

TALKS/ A20

Veritas man 4th journalist shot dead in 2 weeks

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
and Fe Zamora

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—This could become the bloodiest year ever for Filipino journalists.

A correspondent of the Catholic-run Radio Veritas has been added to the growing list of murdered journalists. Fernando Consignado, 50, was shot dead inside his house in a far-flung village in Nagcarlan town yesterday morning.

Chief Insp. Jun Urriquia, Nagcarlan police chief, said Consignado died from a single bullet wound in his right ear. He said police found a spent shell from a .45 cal, pistol by the victim's body.

The police chief said he had yet to confirm if the motive of the killing was work-related. He said Laguna-based journalists who were close to Consignado told him that "the victim was not a hard-hitting" reporter.

"In fact, the victim was inactive for months now," he said.

Urriquia also said the victim's latest press ID from Radio Veritas was valid only until Dec. 31,

VERITAS/ A4

Post admits playing up pro-war reports

WASHINGTON—Editors at The Washington Post have acknowledged that they underplayed stories questioning President George W. Bush's claims of the threat posed by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in the months leading up to the US invasion of Iraq.

In a story published Wednesday on the newspaper's website, Post media critic Howard Kurtz wrote that editors resisted reports that questioned whether Bush had evidence that Saddam was hiding weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

Kurtz said that shortly before the Iraq war began, veteran Post reporter Walter Pincus put together such a report.

"But he ran into resistance from the paper's editors, and his piece ran only after assistant managing editor Bob Woodward, who was researching a book about the drive toward war,

POST/ A21

Philippine Philharmonic wows the Inquirer

By Pablo A. Tariman

THE AUDIENCE review: Wow!

A live performance of Beethoven's "Symphony No. 8 in F Major" was heard for the first time in the INQUIRER building yesterday afternoon when a scaled-down version (only 30 members could be accommodated at the third floor lobby) of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of new PPO music director Eugene F. Castillo serenaded the newspaper's editors and staff.

Flamboyant, hip and cool, Castillo conducted the orchestra without any musical score.

The PPO mini-concert was made more enlightening with the informative commentary of Castillo who annotated each of the symphony's four movements in a very informal way.

PPO PLAYS/ A20

RUDY ESPERAS

BEETHOVEN and Mozart come to the INQUIRER, thanks to the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of its new music director and conductor, Eugene Fredrick Castillo, who said the PPO's new direction is to bring down the barriers and bring music to all the people.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western sections of Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: D.J. YAP, PDI RESEARCH/08/13/04

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains.
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Roxas**	Clody with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

Read Vatican letter in entirety, archbishop advises critics

By TJ Burgonio

THE VATICAN'S controversial letter to Catholic bishops which came under criticism for its alleged antifeminist stance should be read in its entirety for better understanding, Archbishop Oscar V. Cruz said yesterday.

The document, "Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Collaboration of Men and Women," drew a rebuke from party-list Rep. Ana Theresia Hontiveros-Baraquel who said that it portrayed feminists in a bad light.

Cruz, the archbishop of the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan, said the letter actually had for its central theme the equality between the sexes.

"The spirit of the whole document is really equality. No extremism, no machismo, no feminism because, as I said, both are radical positions which are impacted by some fallacy," Cruz explained to reporters.

From the title alone, the reader could deduce that the document speaks about "genuine equality," meaning the equality of dignity and equality of rights and obligations, Cruz said.

To avoid misconceptions, the archbishop suggested that the letter, which was written by Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger and approved for publication by Pope John Paul II on May 31, be read in its entirety.

Ratzinger is the prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the department in charge of safeguarding and interpreting doctrine.

"I think the document should be read as a whole, not one portion, not this portion. Because even the Bible must be read as a whole. The moment you only take one section and dwell on this, then you are not getting the whole spirit of the document," Cruz said.

"It's not fair to the document. It is also not fair to truth and definitely it does not serve anybody," he added.

Cruz asked that readers refrain from distorting what the document says and engaging in "eclectic reading."

"Do not only cite something which only pleases you. The document is a whole document and it will be unfair only to get one or two citations and then dwell on that. That is also something wrong with some people who hold the Bible. They only get the things they like, and not the things they do not like or care about," he said.

In a privilege speech earlier this week, Hontiveros-Baraquel (Akbayan) bristled at the letter's claim that the feminist movement emphasizes the subordination of women to men in order to stoke the antagonism between the two sexes.

She also said that it was inaccurate for the letter to claim that feminism espoused that the liberation of women lay in criticizing the Sacred Scripture and that the patriarchal conception of God was false.

Cruz said that feminism, like machismo, was a dangerous concept because it tries to downgrade the opposite sex.

MILF: Islamiyah members driven out of Lanao Sur

By Alcuin Papa

THE SEPARATIST Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) claims to have driven out of the Mt. Kararao region in Lanao del Sur about 15 to 20 members of the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terror group which is linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida international terror network.

Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the government is still verifying the information which the MILF apparently gave the government in a meeting last week.

"We are confirming that out of the original number of 40 (JI members) reported by our intelligence authorities, close to 15 have gotten out of the area," Ermita told a forum of the Foreign Overseas Correspondents Association of the Philipines (Focap).

He later clarified that the reports said "about 15 or 20 of them had been shooed away with the efforts of the MILF leadership."

Ermita earlier said that at least 40 JI members had been training Filipino terrorists in demolition in the jungles of Mt. Kararao, which is located on the boundary of Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao provinces.

In May 2002, negotiators from the MILF and the government signed a joint agreement where MILF leaders pledged to help the military neutralize terrorists in areas under their control.

In return, the military agreed to move back from its position at the Buliok complex, an MILF stronghold that was overrun by military forces in February 2003. The vast Buliok complex straddles three provinces in Central Mindanao.

In July 2003, the government and the MILF signed a ceasefire agreement that paved the way for the resumption of peace talks.

Ermita said a joint team from the government and the MILF's coordinating committee on cessation of hostilities would be visiting the Buliok complex and the Mt. Kararao region on August 15 to check on the compliance of both parties to the ceasefire agreement.

He said the MILF would be able to see to its satisfaction that the government troops had pulled out of the Buliok complex, which it had made a condition for agreeing to resume the peace negotiations.

The government, on the other hand, would like to ascertain if the MILF was indeed cooperating by driving away members of the JI that were said to be training local terrorists by conducting a joint inspection of the Mt. Kararao area, he said.

The JI is suspected of having carried out bombings in Metro Manila on Dec. 30, 2000 that killed 26 people. The group is also linked to the October 2002 bombings in Bali, Indonesia, that killed more than 200 people.

Indonesian Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, a convicted JI bomber, was killed in October 2003 after escaping from his Camp Crame detention cell. He earlier admitted his involvement in the Dec. 30, 2000, bombings.

Albert 'distressed' by reports on new deployment to Iraq

By Jerome Aning

FOREIGN Secretary Delia Albert yesterday denounced press reports that the government was planning to send a new humanitarian contingent to Iraq under the aegis of the United Nations.

Addressing a Manila Overseas Press Club forum, Albert said she "really was distressed" at the reports which she said could endanger overseas Filipino workers in Iraq and the Middle East.

"I think it is very, very damaging to our 4,000 workers in Iraq. I hope that the people who publish these headlines would take into account that we have 4,000 Filipinos who will be exposed to any danger after these two headlines," she said.

She said there was a reason why diplomatic officials calibrate their statements.

"We try to be as balanced as possible, to tell you, to tell the press, as much as possible, but in a manner that is calibrated and thinking all the time [of] the safety of our Filipinos in Iraq," Albert said.

In a press conference last Tuesday, Ariel Abadilla, the Department of Foreign Affairs assistant secretary for American affairs, said the Philippines was open to sending a new contingent to Iraq under UN auspices. He was explaining Albert's earlier statement that any further Philippine involvement in Iraq would have to be governed by the UN.

The Philippines last month withdrew its token 51-man contingent in Iraq to comply with the demand of Iraqi militants who had seized Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz and threatened to behead him. The pullout caused a strain in diplomatic relations with the United States.

Albert said that in her meeting last Monday with US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone and in her meetings with officials of the DFA and other government bodies, the subject of sending a new contingent to Iraq "was never discussed or talked about because it was not the time to do so."

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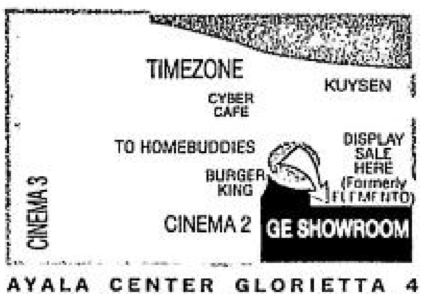

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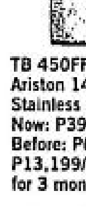
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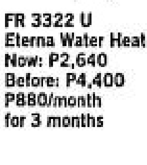
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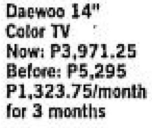
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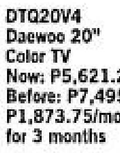
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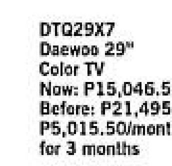
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Lawyers just after publicity, says Poe

By Philip C. Tubeza

DEFEATED presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. said the three lawyers who are questioning his citizenship anew before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal that is hearing his election protest were nothing but publicity seekers hungry for the limelight.

In a 15-page consolidated comment, Poe said the PET should dismiss the petitions of lawyers Victorino Fornier, Jeanette Tecson and Felix Desiderio Jr. as they have no legal standing to intervene in the election protest case.

He also said that President Macapagal-Arroyo, who was declared the winner of the presidential contest, had already questioned his citizenship in her counter-protest.

Poe said the question of his citizenship could be raised only in a quo warranto petition after he is proclaimed the rightful winner of the elections. Quo warranto is a legal proceeding questioning by what authority a person holds an office or position.

He said the participation of the three lawyers would not contribute anything of substance to the case, "save for the would-be intervenors achieving their desired celebrity status."

He said the citizenship issue cannot be included in an election protest.

He said the lawyers' arguments were nothing but a rehash of their earlier arguments which he claimed had been resolved by the Supreme Court.

Romulo said to be excited over move to DFA

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

FROM the Little President to the third member of his family to head the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo is reportedly "excited" over his impending move to the DFA, which he considers a fitting "cap" to his long career in government, a source close to the Romulo family said yesterday.

Romulo, who turned 71 on Saturday, postponed a thanksgiving Mass on that day because he wants to hold the Mass on the day he leaves Malacañang, the source said.

The announcement is expected in the next few days.

It was the first time someone close to Romulo confirmed that he was quitting as the "ES," a powerful job in the shadow of the President and which confers on him the privilege of being first among equals in the Cabinet.

Romulo had been denying that he was leaving the Palace but the rumors refused to go away.

The source refused to be identified but said she was now talking because she was concerned about all the "disinformation" surrounding Romulo.

The source said there had been talk that Romulo was quitting as the ES because some power blocs in Malacañang wanted him out and he had become "disillusioned" with the President. The source said this was farthest from the truth.

She said the President had asked Romulo to stay on.

"He has been wanting to go to the DFA because he wants peace. There were so many intrigues in Malacañang," the source said.

Besides, "it had always been his dream to follow in the footsteps of his uncle, Carlos P. Romulo," the source said.

If appointed, he would be the third Romulo to head the DFA, which is ranked first among the various government departments.

CPR's son Roberto "Bobby" Romulo was the second person in the family to head the DFA.

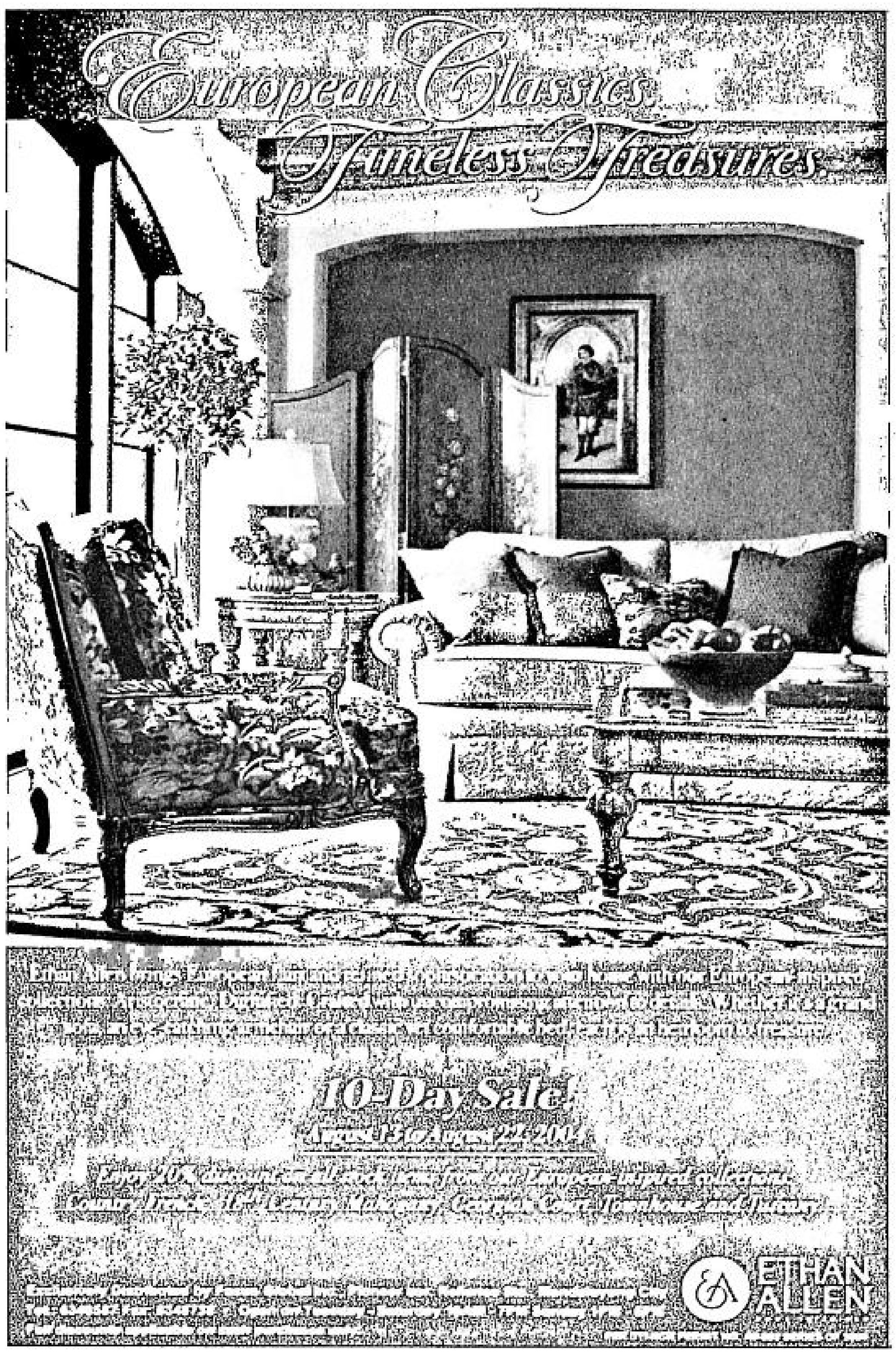
The source said Romulo had always expressed a preference for the foreign affairs portfolio.

He made this known to Ms Arroyo when she became President in 2001.

But because the post went to Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. as a matter of tradition, Romulo was appointed finance secretary. He became the ES when Rene de Villa had a heart bypass operation.

"He's excited because it (DFA) is a good post, especially now that we have all these problems in (foreign relations). Besides, he would be able to travel which he loves to do," the source said.

One of the more soft-spoken members of the Cabinet, Romulo has been publicly cited by Ms Arroyo as the "epitome of integrity" in the government.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How to deal with serial killings

NEWS of Fernando Consignado's death came less than two hours after the National Union of Journalists in the Philippines (NUJP) had concluded a roundtable discussion at the University of the Philippines on how to deal with the series of killings that the group said threatens Philippine democracy.

Among the talking points agreed on by the more than 30 journalists in attendance was the proposal to ask Congress to launch an investigation into the failure of the police and the judiciary to solve any of the 55 cases of murdered journalists since 1986.

Bayan Muna Rep.Satur Ocampo, himself a former newsman, will initiate the move in Congress, in coordination with Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, a former journalist, who chairs the House committee on public information.

Earlier this month, Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Jamby Madrigal filed a resolution in the Senate seeking an inquiry into the murders.

"These killings have got to stop," said Carlos H. Conde, NUJP secretary general. "The situation is very, very alarming."

Inday Espina-Varona, NUJP chair, said the government "likes to boast of a freewheeling democracy. A succession of Malacañang occupants had claimed that media in this country is, and has always been, an ally in the preservation of democracy. And yet, as events of 2003 and the past months show, the Philippine press is under siege by a society that increasingly shoots or arrests its messengers."

As the Committee for the Protection of Journalists notes, she said, "we are witnessing 'the routine assassination of journalists.' It would not be an exaggeration to claim we are in a state of war.

Varona said the assaults on media did not stop at killings. "There have been many arrests of journalists in the past few years. Libel cases are being filed in record numbers. Soldiers have surrounded journalists during fact-finding missions, and military officers are wont to accuse reporters of involvement in rebellion.

Veritas man 4th journalist shot dead in 2 weeks

From page A1

2002.

Consignado was the second Laguna journalist killed in eight months after the ambush of columnist Noel Villarante.

Consignado was also the fourth mediaman killed in a span of 12 days after the murders of Ilocos Norte broadcaster Roger Mariano, Batangas tabloid correspondent Arnel Manalo and GMA 7 correspondent Jonathan Abayon of General Santos City.

'Most dangerous'

Last year, seven journalists were murdered in the Philippines, matching the record of Colombia. According to the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, the Philippines is considered among the most dangerous places in the world for the working press.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered Interior and Local Secretary Angelo Reyes to look into the killing of reporters.

According to the National Union of Journalists in the Philippines (NUJP), Consignado was the 55th newsman murdered since the fall of the Marcos dictatorship.

GMA orders probe

In her meeting with the Kapisanan ng Komentarista ng Pilipinas yesterday, Ms Arroyo assured the journalists that Reyes would conduct a deeper probe.

"If he can do it with kidnappers, he can certainly do something about those killings," said the President of Reyes.

A few days ago, journalists belonging to Bantay Radyo in Cebu City barely escaped an attack.

This incident has led the Philippine National Police to review a proposal to arm journalists who face death threats.

Dennis Geron, coordinator and advisor of Radio Veritas' pool of volunteer reporters, said that he "trained and supervised" Consignado for five years, and found "no problem with his (Consignado's) reporting," the NUJP said in a statement.

Not critical

Geron said Consignado once filed stories about anomalies in government projects in Nagcarlan, earning the ire of an unnamed barangay official.

But Dave Sta. Ana, newsroom supervisor of Radio Veritas, said, "Consignado's reports of late had not been critical of anybody," according to an NUJP statement.

Urriquia said Consignado's neighbor, Faustino Baldevino, called up the police to inform them that he discovered the victim's body lying on the floor of his newly built bungalow in Barangay Abo at around 10 a.m.

He said Baldevino told police investigators that he went to the victim's house to inform him that his (Consignado) younger brother would be coming on Friday to help the victim varnish his house.

Separated from wife

Police said the victim, who was also a vegetable farmer, was separated from his wife and was living alone in his house which was still under construction. The 30-square-meter house is situated in the mountainous part of the village, some 4 km from the main road.

"Because the victim's house was located some 100 meters away from his nearest neighbor, nobody saw what really happened. A resident, however, said he heard a single gunshot at around 7 a.m. but he just ignored it," Urriquia told the INQUIRER.

Police said a land row between Consignado and his relatives a few months ago could have triggered the killing.

Urriquia said the victim had a quarrel with an uncle over a parcel of land that was supposedly divided between some members of the family.

But he said the land dispute had been settled after Consignado and his uncle agreed to the terms set by Barangay Captain Wilfredo Urrisa.

"Urrisa told us that the problem was already resolved that's why Consignado was able to start the construction of his house," Urriquia said.

Laguna journalists

Laguna-based journalists denounced the killing, saying the violence against media practitioners has been escalating.

Ding Bermudez of the Police Regional Office 4 Press Corps asked for a speedy investigation of the case. He said the police should take the necessary action to secure mediamen in Southern Tagalog "who have been consistently under attack from unscrupulous individuals."

"This is just too much. With the continuous killings of our colleagues, Southern Tagalog is fast becoming the Colombia of the Philippines. I hope the police could do something to help us," Bermudez rued.

Kairos Philippines also strongly condemned the series of killings of journalists in the country.

"This is a direct affront to our democracy. I call on President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Philippine National Police in particular to show proof of its capability and sincerity to solve these series of killings by immediately bringing the perpetrators to the bar of justice," Fr. Jose Dizon of Kairos said. *With a report from Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

Joker's advice: Take a break, Madam President

From page A1

yesterday.

This unsolicited piece of advice, the senator insisted, was bereft of sarcasm.

"She sounds tired," he said. "That is why she has become so onion-skinned."

Oh no, it wasn't a call for her resignation, the senator clarified. "She should take a long and restful vacation. She hasn't had one since she became President in January 2001. That's three and a half years."

Indeed, Ms Arroyo has just started a new six-year term, and already her famous temper has attracted as much media attention as her official activities.

But this was not Joker's issue.

His statement was prompted by the President's defense of her economic managers after his attack on Tuesday against Cabinet members pushing for new tax measures. He tagged them "tax terrorists."

Alluding to Joker, the President said "offensive labeling" was unfair and "won't do us any good." She urged critics of her tax proposals to stick to "reasoned and principled discussion."

Hiding behind GMA's skirt

Joker charged back, admonishing Cabinet members facing criticism not to "wail and run, at the first drop of rain, behind the President's skirt for protection and ask her to defend them."

Rubbing it in, he added: "Criticism of the ideas of members of the Cabinet is not criticism of the President."

The senator—who has consistently played the role of fiscalizer although a member of the administration coalition—noted that Ms Arroyo's economic managers had not really helped solve the country's financial ills.

"Remember that she chose an investment banker, an expert in mega-borrowings, to be her first secretary of finance," he said, referring to Jose Isidro Camacho.

"True enough, to shore up government finances, he racked up record-high borrowings more than any other secretary of finance in the past. Thus, the borrowings of the three-year Arroyo administration is bigger than the combined borrowings of the [Fidel] Ramos and Erap [Joseph Estrada] administrations for eight years, Joker said."

He wasn't making this up, Joker said. "[Data] thereon in absolute terms is available in Sen. Ralph Recto's ways and means committee."

And proving that "the President's men" were not exactly "loyalty and competence personified," he said, Camacho resigned last year and allegedly joined the camp of one of the President's opponents.

Easy way out

Joker said Ms Arroyo had asked Congress to raise P80 billion in new taxes simply because she realized that the borrowing "spree" had to stop even while bridging the budget gap.

Not a few "balked at the idea," he recounted. "As a solution, [the legislators] demanded that the President's financial managers share the burden by first plugging collection leakages that are so obvious and commonplace."

The President described these financial managers as "overworked," Joker said, when they were really just "in denial. They do not want to work to collect more taxes, they just want new taxes—the easy way out."

Overworked

Which brought him to the conclusion that Ms Arroyo needed a rest: "She is the one who is overworked, and she worries about them."

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Gov't offers free services to disabled

By TJ Burgonio

HERE'S good news for the disabled.

Persons with disabilities (PWDs) who need rehabilitation can visit hospitals accredited by the Department of Health and avail themselves of free services, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said yesterday.

Dayrit said persons with disabilities could visit at least six DOH hospitals in Metro Manila alone and 10 others in the countryside, saying these have orthopedic departments.

"They should seize this opportunity. We have existing facilities run by government agencies that offer rehabilitation services for the different impairments persons with disabilities may have," Dayrit said in a statement.

In a survey conducted by the Social Weather Stations from June 4 to 29, 91 percent of the 1,200 respondent households said they were willing to have their family members with disabilities registered with the DOH.

The study also showed that 84 percent of the households surveyed had a member who was disabled.

Thirty-five percent of the PWDs had an orthopedic disability; 27 percent were disabled after a stroke; 11 percent had visual and communication disabilities, and 9 percent suffered from mental disabilities, the DOH said, citing survey results.

The orthopedic hospitals open to PWDs are the Philippine Orthopedic Center, East Avenue Medical Center, Rizal Medical Center, Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center and Quirino Medical Center.

PWDs based in the provinces can go to the Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center in Region 1; Paulino Garcia Memorial Hospital and Jose Lingad Memorial Medical Center in Region 3; Batangas Regional Hospital in Region 4;

Western Visayas Medical Center, Region 6; Vicente Sotto Sr. Memorial Medical Center, Region 7; Zamboanga City Medical Center, Region 9; Northern Mindanao Medical Center, Region 10; Davao Medical Center, Region 11, and Baguio General Hospital in the Cordillera Administrative Region.

"Although these government facilities may be limited in number, its counterparts in the private sector are also readily available for the PWDs' rehabilitation needs," Dayrit said.

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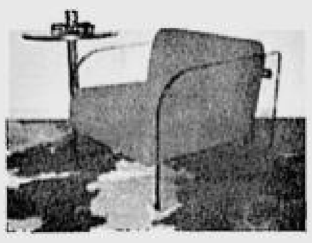

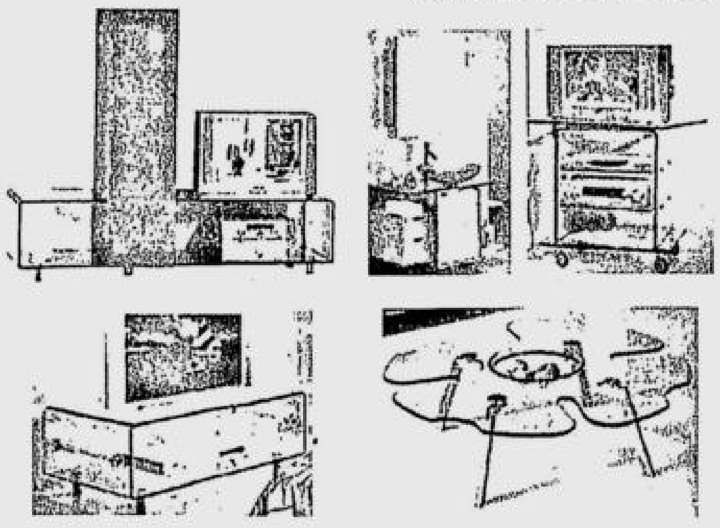

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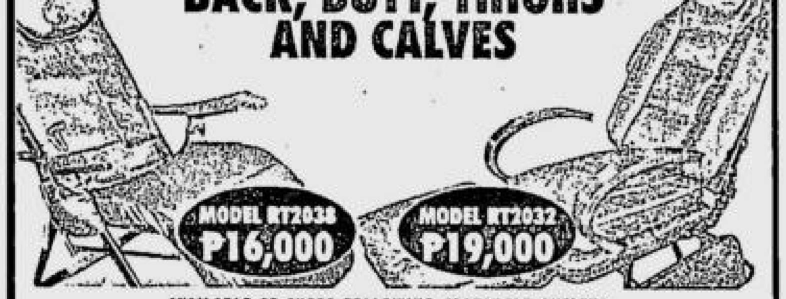

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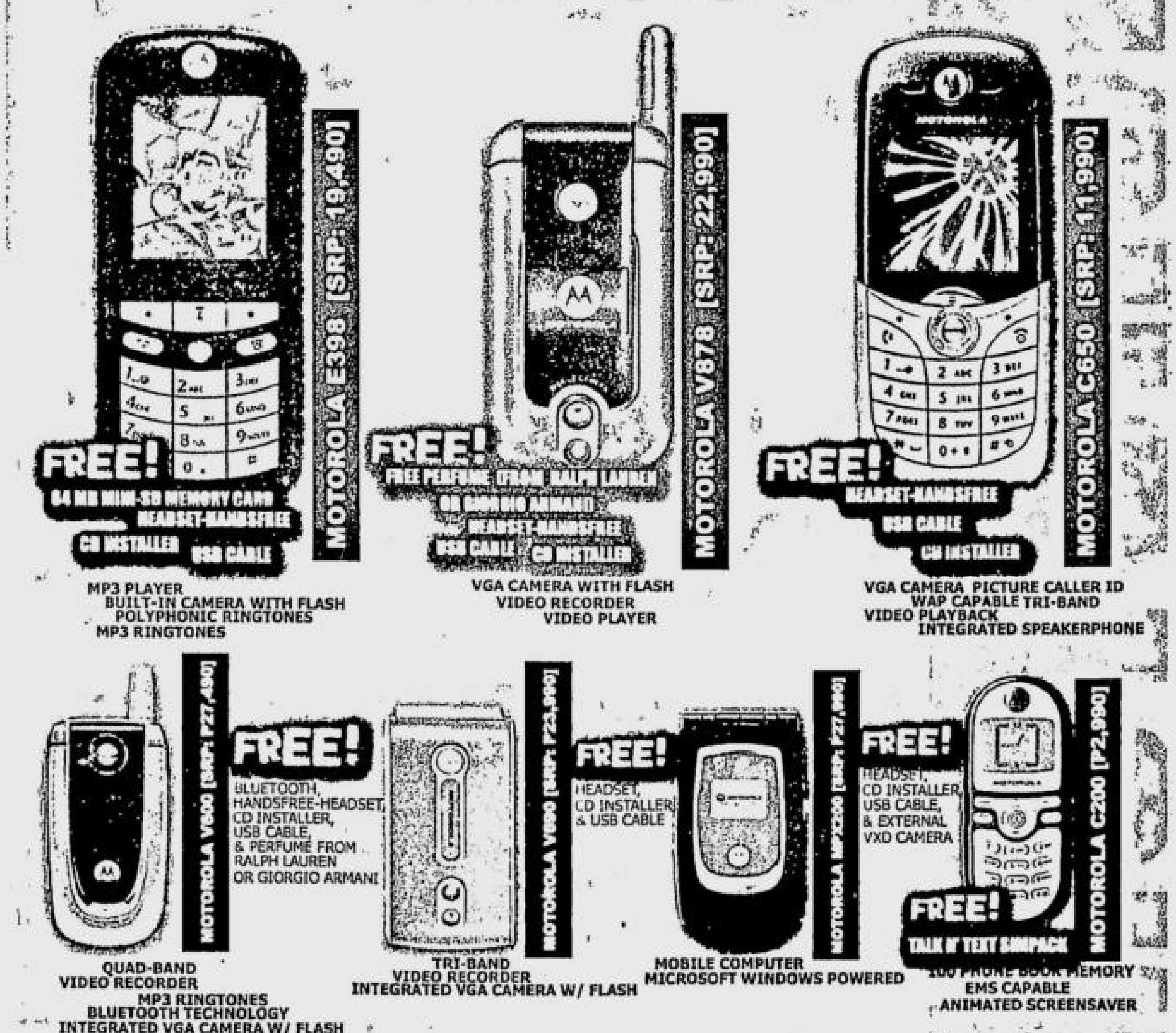
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Special division trying Erap gets new chief

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court has appointed a new head for the Sandiganbayan Special Division hearing the plunder case against former President Joseph Estrada.

In a one-page resolution, the high tribunal designated Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval, the anti-graft court's acting presiding justice, as the new chair of the special division vice Justice Minita-Chico Nazario, who was appointed to the Supreme Court.

The high court also appointed Justice Francisco H. Villaluz Jr. as a new member of the special division.

The Supreme Court made the appointments after Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio, Sandoval himself and Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro, another member of the special division, wrote it asking that Nazario's replacement be named so the Estrada trial could resume.

Sandoval's was the lone dissenting opinion in the special division's ruling last month allowing Estrada to be detained at his Tanay, Rizal, rest house.

"The situation has become, as it should not, that the effectivity of the ruling becomes entirely dependent on the whim and caprice of Estrada. It should not be subject to the litigant's wish or desire with attached conditions," Sandoval had written in his seven-page dissenting opinion.

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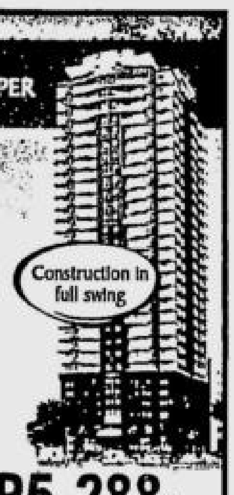
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Friday, August 13, 2004
19th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ezk 16:1-15, 60-63 or 16:59-63
Gospel: Mt 19:3-12

Some Pharisees approached Jesus. They wanted to test him and asked, "Is a man allowed to divorce his wife for any reason he wants?"

Jesus replied, "Have you not read that in the beginning the Creator made them male and female, and he said: Man has now to leave father and mother, and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one body? So they are no longer two but one body; let no one separate what God has joined."

They asked him, "Then, why did Moses command us to write a bill of dismissal in order to divorce?" Jesus replied, "Moses knew your stubborn heart, so he allowed you to divorce your wives, but it was not so in the beginning. Therefore I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, unless it be for concubinage, and marries another, commits adultery."

The disciples said, "If that is the condition of a married man, it is better not to marry." Jesus said to them, "Not everybody can accept what you have just said, but only those who have received this gift. Some are born incapable of marriage. Some have been made that way by others. But there are some who have given up the possibility of marriage for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who can accept it, accept it."

Commentary

In Genesis 1:27 (the first page of the Bible) there is a lyrical description of the creation of man and woman, "God made human beings in his own image, in his own image he created them; male and female he created them" (see also 5:2). "Adam" is not a name like James or John; it means "the creature made of dust" (the word for dust is "adamah" in Hebrew). In the first three chapters of Genesis, 'Adam' means man and woman equally. Obviously, then, man and woman are on an equal footing and both are equally images of God.

All this, of course, is before the Fall! After the Fall, all is changed. Human beings have seriously damaged their original innocence, and they suffer differently for it. The woman suffers by becoming subject to man and dependent on him, but this was not God's intention. This Genesis story reflects the actual social position of woman in the ancient Near East, which was one of subjection first to her father and then to her husband. It is the story of the corruption of God's image.

What Jesus had to say about divorce was an affirmation of the original state over the corrupted one.

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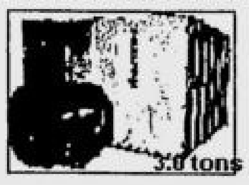
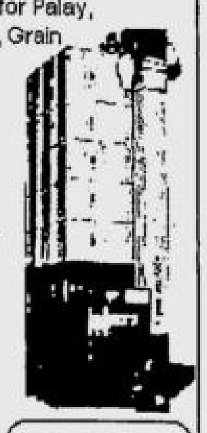
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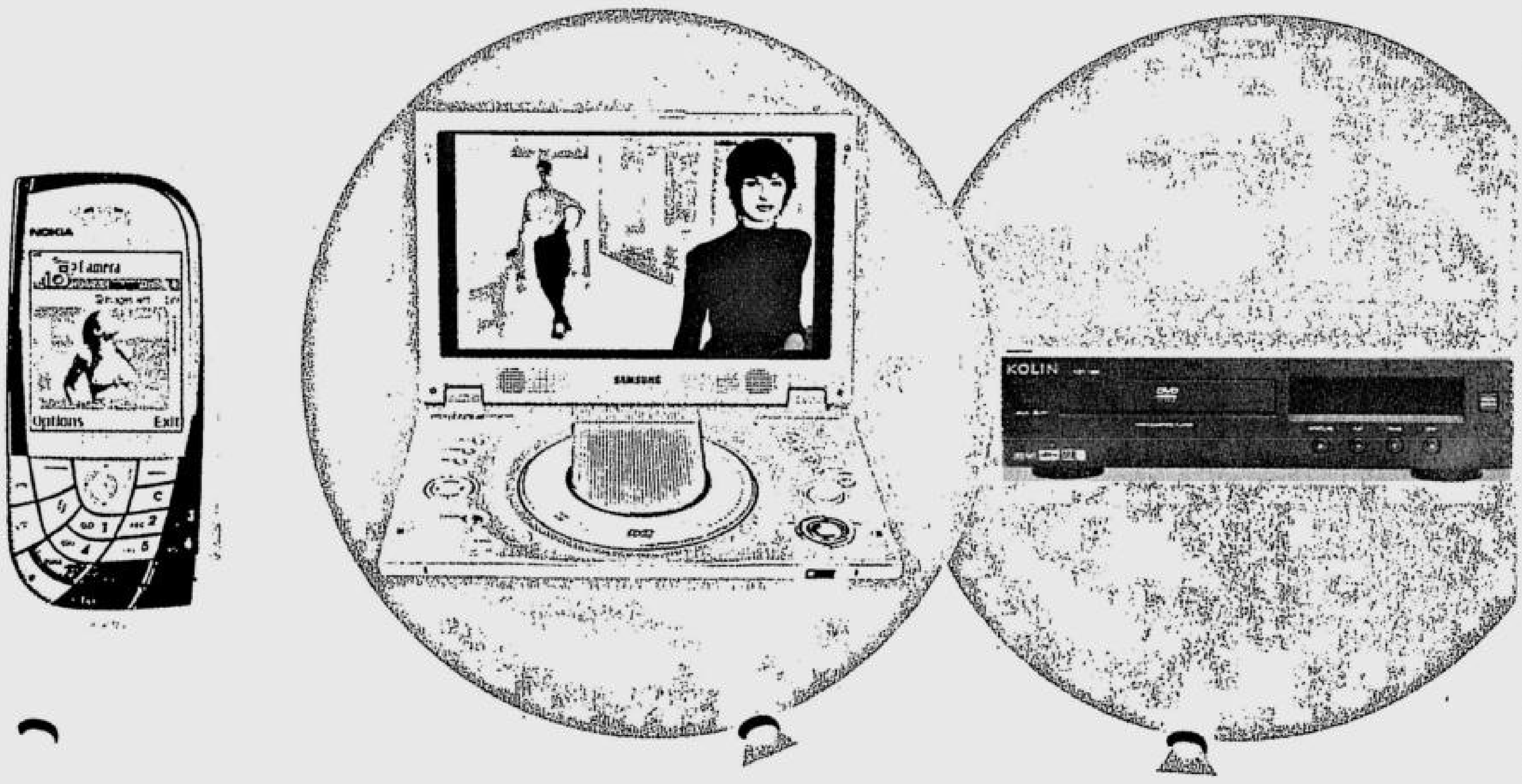
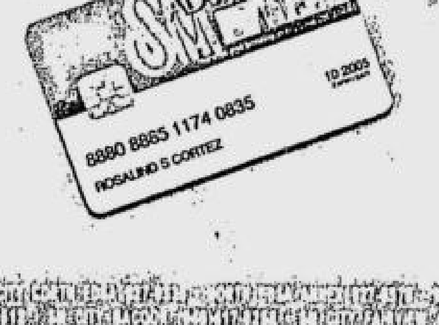

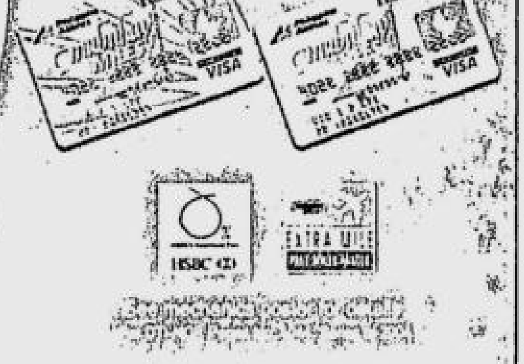
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Angelo marks his 47th simply, gratefully

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Amid a feast of *menudo*, *pancit*, *buro* (fermented rice eaten with fresh vegetables) and broiled *tilapia*, the gift of life was what former hostage Angelo de la Cruz relished best on his 47th birthday yesterday.

The truck driver began the day with a Mass at 8:30 a.m. at the St. Joseph Chapel in Buenavista, his village in Mexico, Pampanga.

During the Mass, he said his heart was overflowing with gratitude to God for helping him survive 17 days of captivity in the hands of Iraqi extremists who had threatened to behead him.

His birthday came 23 days after his captors released him in Baghdad on July 20.

"God knows my family still needs me," De la Cruz said.

Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, Pampanga Gov. Mark Lapid and Mexico Mayor Teddy Tumang joined De la Cruz, his wife Arsenia, his eight children, relatives and neighbors at the celebration.

"This is my happiest birthday," De la Cruz said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, to whom De la Cruz said he would forever be indebted after she worked for his release, sent him a birthday cake. Written on the mocha cake was the President's wish for him: "Happy Birthday, Angelo."

As his guests ate, De la Cruz took to the videoke machine, singing a ballad to his wife. He gave her a kiss as the crowd teased them.

"She really stood by me despite the hard life that I gave her," he said.

In the short program held in the De la Cruzes' yard, he had this advice for overseas Filipino workers like him: "Don't ever forget to seek God's guidance and protection."

And what was his birthday wish? "To lead a simple, normal life."

Since his return to the country, De la Cruz has received a house and lot, a tricycle, a franchise to sell Globe phone cards, electrical appliances and job offers. His son, Jeric, also received pledges for an operation on his blind right eye.

After the simple feast, De la Cruz and his family met with Soliman and Sto. Tomas. The two officials said the government would continue to help the family in planning their options.

The De la Cruz couple volunteered to help in the labor department's OFW program.

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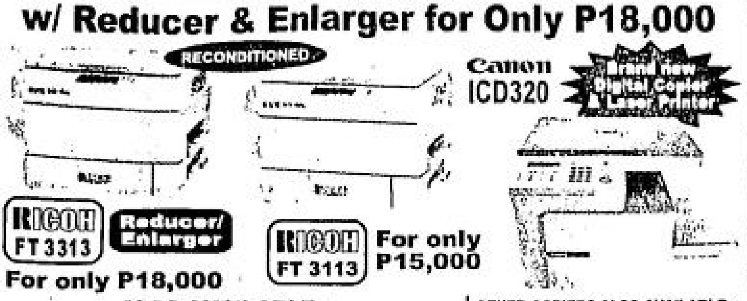

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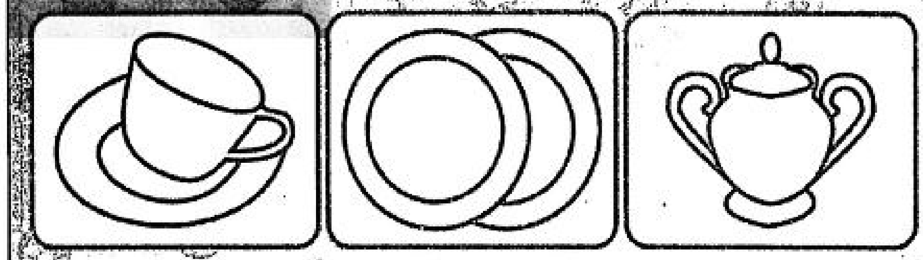

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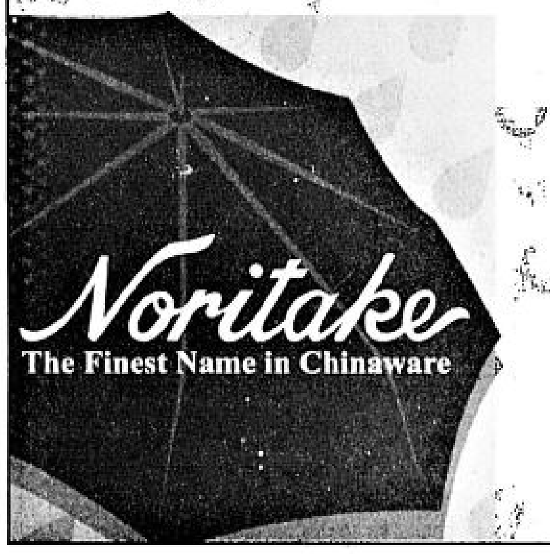

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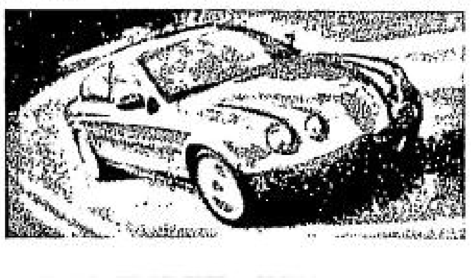

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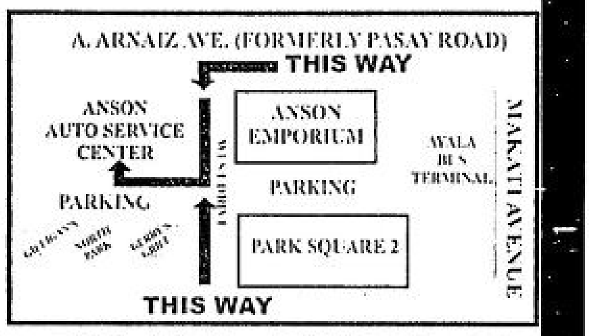

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Group to 'arrest' old reporters' other killer

A FOUNDATION set up to honor the late journalist and leftist leader Antonio Zumel seeks to address the "other" common killer of Filipino journalists aside from assassins' bullets—poverty in their retirement years.

Organizers of the Antonio Zumel Foundation (AZF), which was launched Tuesday night on what would have been his 72nd birth anniversary, said that among their plans was the establishment of a fund for retired members of the press who were in desperate financial straits.

AZF president Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo noted that the lack of "decent wages" leaves most Filipino journalists with "almost nothing to look forward to" in their retirement years.

"If the government can set aside retirement benefits for its employees, worthy members of the fourth estate should have them, too," Ocampo told the INQUIRER during the tribute to Zumel at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

Ocampo said the AZF objective is a take-off on the advocacy of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines calling for higher salaries and benefits for media practitioners. NUJP secretary general Carlos Conde is a member of the AZF board, he said.

"There's an economic aspect to freedom of the press—freedom from hunger. Journalists must have decent wages for them to better keep their ethical standards," said Ocampo, a former newspaperman like Zumel.

A former chair of the leftist National Democratic Front, Zumel died of kidney failure in Utrecht, the Netherlands, on Aug. 13, 2001, at the age of 69.

Family, friends and admirers brought his ashes and relived his memory at a gathering Tuesday night at the UP Balay Kalinaw.

The evening also saw the launch of "Radical Prose," a book compiling Zumel's selected writings from his stint at the Philippines Herald Magazine in the 1960s up to the time he joined the anti-Marcos underground in 1972.

The AZF will also serve as a press freedom watchdog and a training body, especially for campus and community journalists, Ocampo said. *Volt Contreras*

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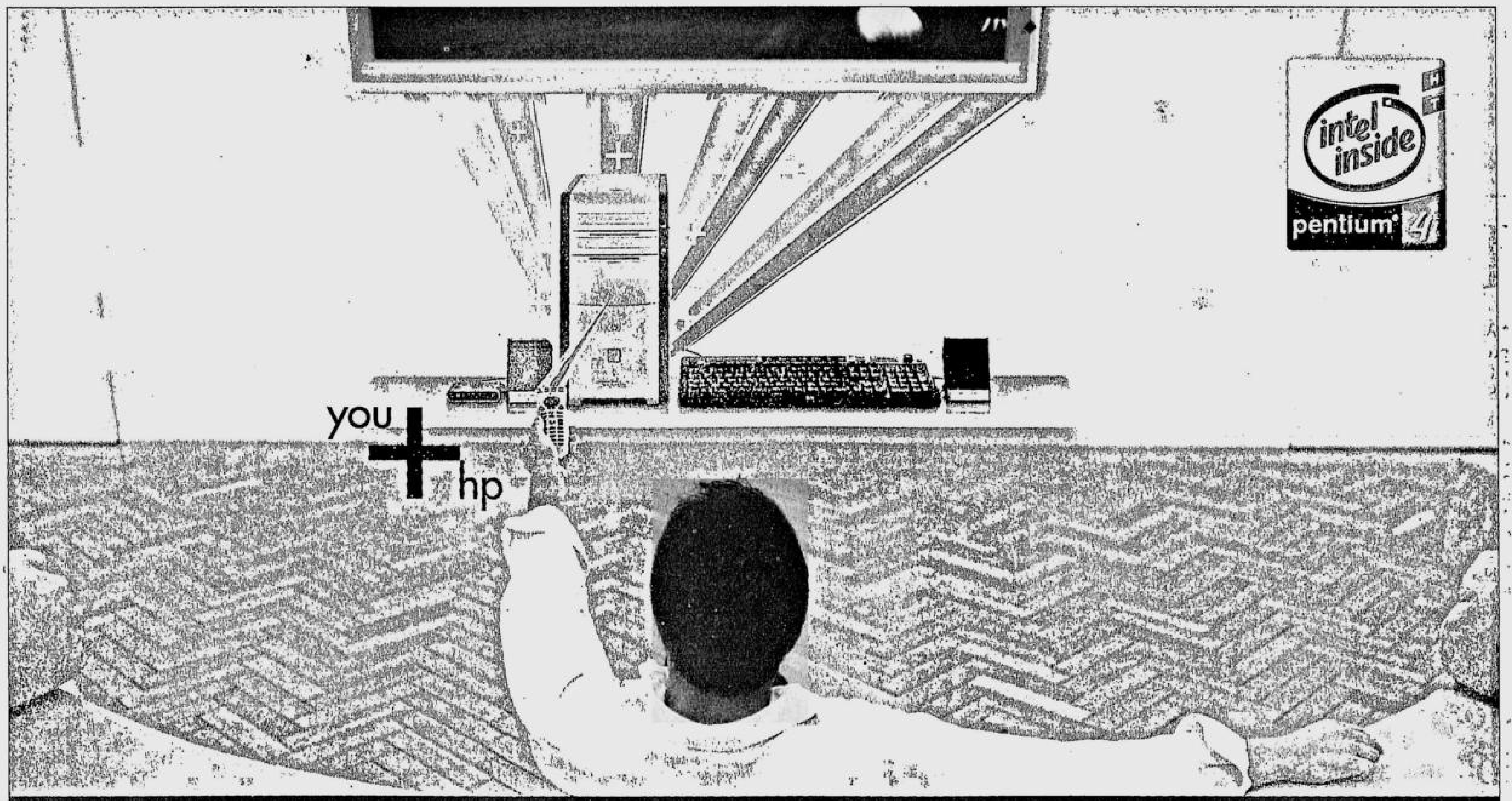

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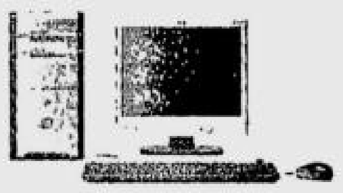

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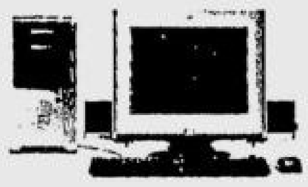

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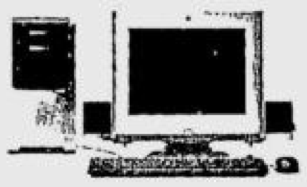

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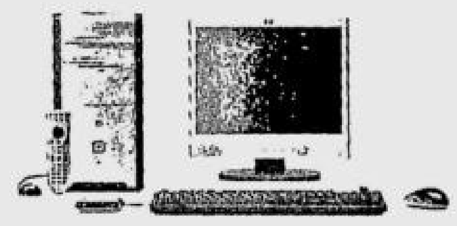

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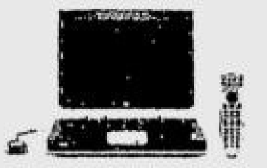

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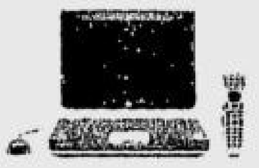

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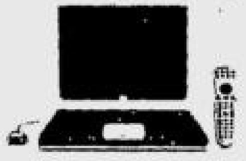

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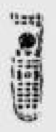

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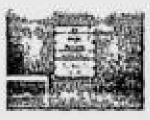

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US, Iraqi troops launch Najaf offensive

NAJAF, Iraq—US marines spearheaded a massive two-pronged assault to crush Shiite Muslim militiamen in Najaf on Thursday, hours after 56 people were killed when US planes pounded Kut in the wake of ground clashes.

Massive explosions, tank fire and machine-gun fire boomed through the holy city from 7 a.m. as plumes of smoke rose from its historic center, home to the Imam Ali shrine, revered by Shiites all over the world.

By mid-morning, US troops and Iraqi security forces had sealed off all main entrances leading to the mausoleum, said witnesses and an AFP correspondent, as residents were being urged on loudspeakers to leave the old city.

Two US helicopters surveyed the vast Najaf cemetery, where fighters loyal to militia .leader Moqtada Sadr have remained hunkered down during the eight days of bitter clashes that have ravaged the city.

US forces, backed by Iraqi security forces, appeared to have mounted a pincer movement seeking to trap the Mehdi Army inside the heart of the city.

The office of Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi issued a statement assuring that the holy shrine would remain safe from all attacks and said he had not approved the entry of multinational forces into the Imam Ali.

"His excellency is holding the armed elements inside the shrine responsible for any harm or damage that may occur," it said.

On Wednesday, the US military had said it was poised for "major assaults" against the Mehdi Army, as Sadr pressed loyalists to fight to the end, regardless of whether he was killed or captured.

Shortly after the onslaught began, the deputy governor of Najaf quit his job in protest.

"I resign from my post denouncing all the US terrorist operations that they are doing against this holy city," said Jawdat Kadam Najem al-Kuraishi.

The imminence of the US offensive also appeared to expose fraying relations between the military and Najaf governor Adnan al-Zorfi.

Zorfi denied troops were preparing for a final attack and vowed that US soldiers would not approach Najaf's Imam Ali mausoleum, after the military said he had given them permission to do so.

Further north in the Shiite city of Kut, which fell briefly to Sadr supporters in the Mehdi Army's spring uprising against the US-led occupation, heavy overnight US bombardment killed 56 people, a senior medic said.

Police said US planes pounded the southern al-Shakia district, a densely populated Mehdi Army stronghold, for two hours overnight.

But Kut hospital director Khader Fadal Arar said many of the casualties were women and children. "They destroyed 18 houses and killed 56 people and injured more than 110, some of them very seriously," he said.

The bombs also flattened the local office of Sadr's movement, which a Sadr supporter said was empty at the time.

It followed a day of fierce clashes in which Iraqi security forces sought to fight off insurgents who attacked the city hall, police stations and national guard barracks. *AFP*

1,000th US death in Iraq looms for Bush

WASHINGTON—The United States faces a painful moment probably next month when its military deaths in Iraq are expected to surpass 1,000. It will also be a crucial moment for President George W. Bush, who faces a presidential campaign in which Iraq is a central issue.

"Unfortunately that day will likely arrive next month and it will be a fulcrum event that may change many people's views of what we're doing in Iraq," said David Birdsell, a political scientist at Baruch College in New York City.

"It's a gripping number, a large number, a tragic number and it will be a pivot to revisit Bush's reasons for fighting the war and his premature declaration last year that the mission had been accomplished," he said.

According to the most up-to-date Pentagon figure, which usually lags events on the ground by a few days, the United States has lost 931 military personnel in Iraq since the war began in March 2003.

In July, the first month after an Iraqi interim authority took office, US deaths totaled 55, compared to 42 the previous month. So far this month, they are running at a similar or possibly slightly higher rate.

Compared to past wars, this is a relatively low figure.

During the Vietnam War, the US lost 1,363 soldiers in the month of March 1968 alone and more than 58,000 for the entire war. But it is still a higher rate than for any military conflict the United States has fought since Vietnam.

"The Iraqi body count hurts the president. Already less than half of respondents in my polling say the war was worth fighting and the 1,000 casualty will be a milestone that will be page one news and put a lot more focus on it," said pollster John Zogby.

Republican political adviser Keith Appell agreed that the 1,000th death would be an "awful milestone" but argued that it would not change anything in the presidential campaign.

"The Republicans will be on defense for a couple of days but I don't expect the Bush campaign to back off anything it is saying. He needs to stand resolute, to promise to stay the course until victory and to argue that we have no choice but to fight this war," he said. *Reuters*

Checks ordered on Japan nuke plants after leak

TOKYO—Japan has ordered safety checks at the country's 52 nuclear plants and some 800 non-nuclear power stations to prevent the type of accident that killed four people at a reactor this week, government officials said Thursday.

Government investigators kept up searches and questioning Thursday at the plant at Mihama, 320 km west of Tokyo, where a cooling pipe exploded on Monday. The operator, Kansai Electric Power, is under suspicion of negligence.

The Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency ordered Kansai Electric and six other Japanese utility companies on Wednesday to review inspection records of cooling pipes at nuclear power plants to check for signs of erosion, agency official Koichi Shiraga said Thursday.

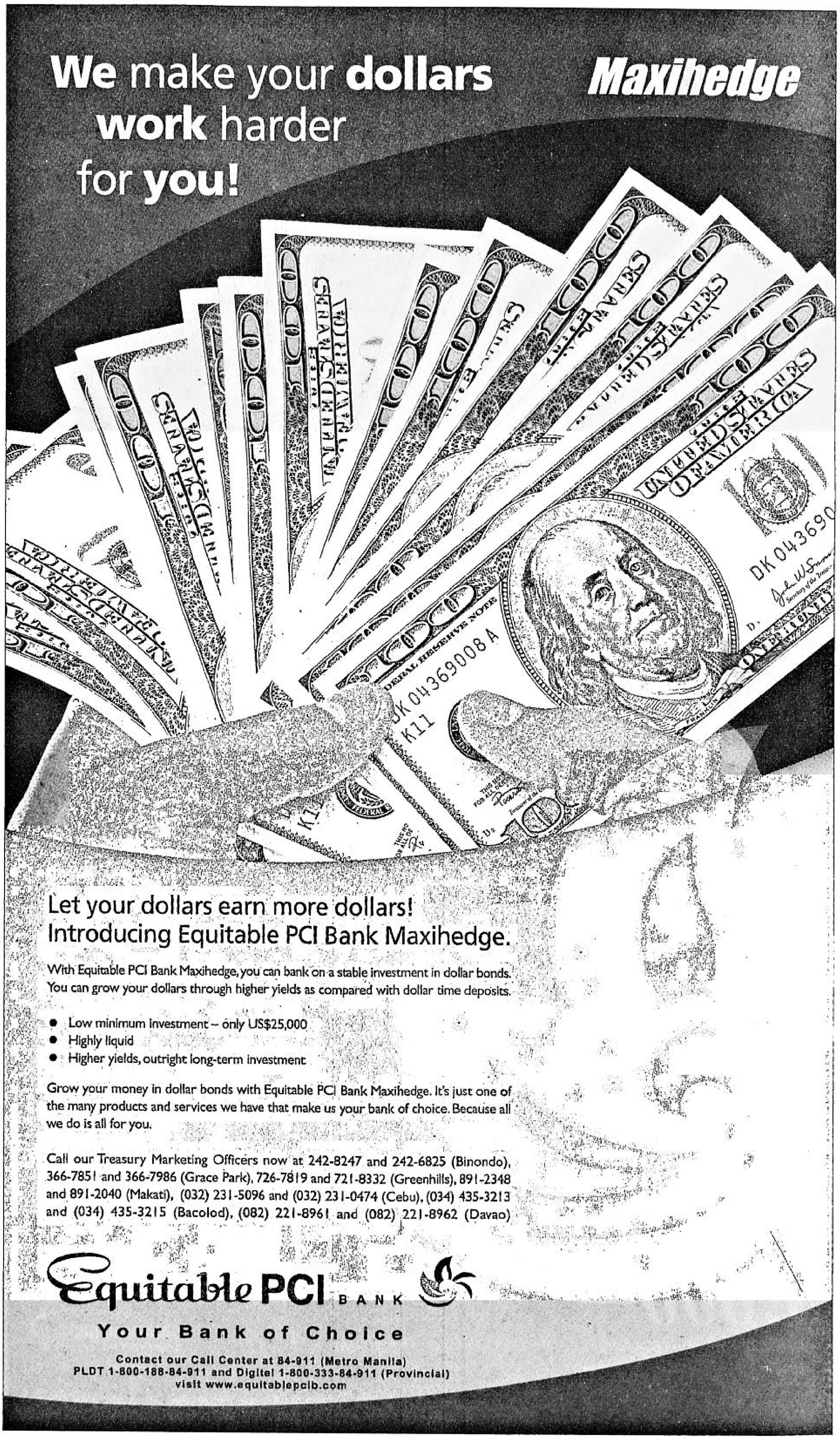
The utilities were requested to submit the results by next Wednesday. The agency also ordered operators to check inspection records at their 800 non-nuclear, thermoelectric power stations.

The agency plans to send more officials to investigate Kansai Electric to collect documents related to safety records, Shiraga said.

In Mihama, the dangerously corroded pipe exploded and spewed boiling water and superheated steam on workers, killing four instantly and injuring seven others.

The two of the four victims died of suffocation when the steam burned their windpipes, and the other two apparently died from serious burns, Japanese media reported Thursday.

Kansai Electric acknowledged on Tuesday that the cooling pipe that caused the accident had not been thoroughly checked, despite a warning from inspectors last year that it posed a danger. Kyodo News agency reported that police planned to raid the company's offices. *AP*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Britain approves human cloning

LONDON—Britain gave the go ahead Wednesday for human cloning, granting a license to scientists bidding to become the first in Europe to create stem cells used in medical research from a cloned human embryo.

The green light was given to scientists from the Center for Life at Newcastle University, northern England, who aim to use the stem cells cloned to treat serious diseases.

However they warn it will be at least five years, if not many more, before patients could receive stem cell treatments based on their work.

Stem cell technology is intended to create material that could one day treat diabetes, cancer, Alzheimer's disease and other disorders, and not to make a cloned child, scientists say.

"We hope to start as soon as possible, because we have the background, we have the knowledge, we have everything here in Newcastle," the man leading the research, Dr. Miodrag Stojkovic, said.

Human embryo cloning has been pioneered in South Korea, with a team from Seoul National University announcing in February it had created stem cells using the technique.

Scientists in the United States —where, legally, research must be funded privately—have tried, so far unsuccessfully, to create stem cells cloned from human embryos, Stojkovic said.

While it has been legal in Britain since 2002, such projects require authorization from the government's Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority (HFEA), and this is the first such permission granted.

It promises to spawn fresh debate about the ethics of artificially reproducing human genetic material for scientific and medical aims.

HFEA chair Suzi Leather said Wednesday's decision to grant an initial one-year research license had been taken "after careful consideration of all the scientific, ethical, legal and medical aspects of the project."

"This research is preliminary, it is not aimed at specific illnesses, but is the foundation for further development in the treatment of serious disease," she said in a written statement.

Others were not so happy.

"It is very worrying indeed," said Josephine Quintavalle, from Comment On Reproductive Ethics, a leading British group opposed to science involving embryos.

"No human life should be sacrificed for the benefit of anybody else," she said. "The pro-life position on the human embryo is that no matter how you created it, it is a human embryo, it is a member of the human species, and therefore it has as much right to life as anybody else."

The Vatican also reiterated its firm opposition to human cloning following the announcement.

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Navarro-Valls said the Vatican would make a detailed assessment on the British research once more details emerge of the research team's plans.

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By far the most versatile of these are stem cells that come from embryos, for these cells can grow into almost any part of the body. *AFP*

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Such moves prompted the government to pass regulations a few years ago banning doctors from revealing the sex of an unborn child amid demographic indications that births of boys far outnumbered those of girls.

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Osama urges attacks on US, British targets

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"Osama has given the go ahead to target important places and personalities in the US, UK and Pakistan," one Pakistani intelligence source said.

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Darfur atrocities

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Convicted rapist wins $13-M lotto

LONDON—Home Secretary David Blunkett said on Thursday he wanted to ensure a convicted rapist who won 7 million pounds ($12.8 million) on Britain's national lottery should not get a penny of it while in prison.

Iorworth Hoare was on weekend release from a low-security prison when he bought his winning ticket. Government officials admit he did nothing illegal.

"We can't stop a prisoner or their family from buying a ticket but we can look closely at making sure they don't benefit from a single penny while in prison," Blunkett wrote in the Sun newspaper.

"I will be talking to the Lottery Commission and Cabinet colleagues to see if we can find a way to stop this happening again," he said.

Hoare was nearing the end of a life sentence after being jailed in 1989 for attempted rape. He had previously served sentences for rape, attempted rape and indecent assault.

But his celebrations were cut short when he was moved to another higher-security prison for his own safety, the Sun said.

Blunkett said legislation was already in train to recover compensation from criminals who land a financial windfall.

He said he would look at directing a chunk of lottery winnings and the like into the Victims' Fund, which supports those who suffer serious crimes. *Reuters*

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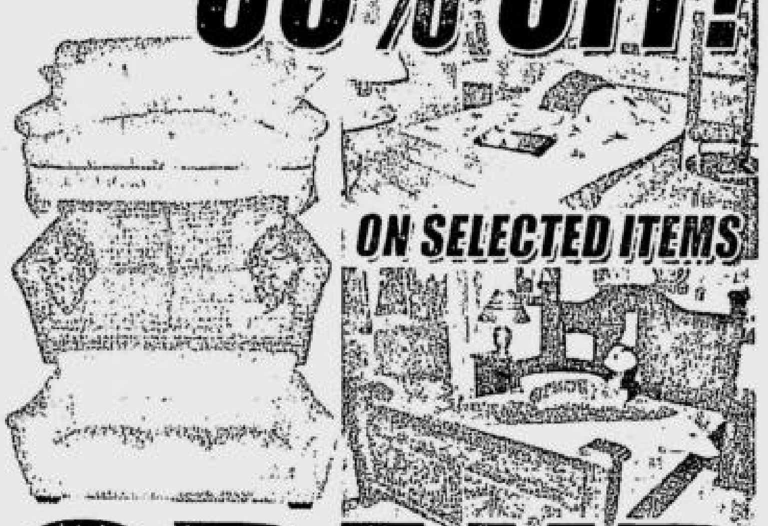

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Wait and see

EDITORIAL

THIS has to be the attitude of most people to the announced random drug testing in Congress. Random is as random does, and it remains to be seen just how random the testing will be.

Still, knowing how prevalent the drug problem is and how prohibited drugs allure, chances are, some of our honorable congressmen and their staff will be caught with muddy sleeves. The authorities have been careful not to state that people will be thrown in jail; rather, they will be counseled. In extremely bad cases, they will be put in drug rehabilitation centers.

If only the efforts of our law enforcers toward users were always that kind, gentle and considerate. But surely we will not see the spectacle of congressmen or their bodyguards and staff being herded around in orange jumpsuits before the cameras. Our officials are still and always lucky people.

The government, to its credit, has been on the right track in trying to go after the manufacturers and distributors of illegal drugs. For every shabu laboratory and drug dealing syndicate busted, thousands of lives are saved from the hell of addiction.

In the United States, the debate on the war on drugs has come to include the mind-boggling, huge percentage of prison inmates serving time for drug-related offenses. From state to state, the percentage ranges from half to more than three fourths of the prison population. And this doesn't include the number of inmates who turn to drugs once behind bars; and who thus compound the difficulties of rehabilitation.

So far, our country doesn't have this problem. The majority of offenders who fill up our already bursting prison facilities are there for other crimes. But the percentage of the youth exposed to drugs is increasing; it has been increasing for over 40 years—since the 1960s, when the drug culture came to our shores.

Many of the Filipinos of the 1960s, who were the first to embark on recreational drug use, are now grandparents. The problem, popularized long enough, has become systemic in our culture. Indeed, this is a problem long in the making. Drug use became a problem not in recent years, or in recent decades, but many decades ago.

Western media and pop music have immortalized drug use, in many respects. From the Beatles to today's radio hits, drugs are praised, dramatized, even made a part of daily life. So are books and magazines and movies.

It might just be that the war on drugs requires not a crackdown on the young, but a thorough review of the habits of the old. Those old enough to have been partying in the 1960s and 1970s are those in a financial position to engage in the drug trade as entrepreneurs. The skinny kids who spend their money on drugs are—in drug trade parlance—just the lowest creatures in the food chain. We need to go after the big fish.

The problem is that the big fish are, of course, in our board rooms, in our country's finest social clubs, in the military, in the police, in the government. Which is why, perhaps, the smartest thing the anti-drugs groups have done so far is to start random drug testing in Congress. It may not be much of a start, but a start nonetheless.

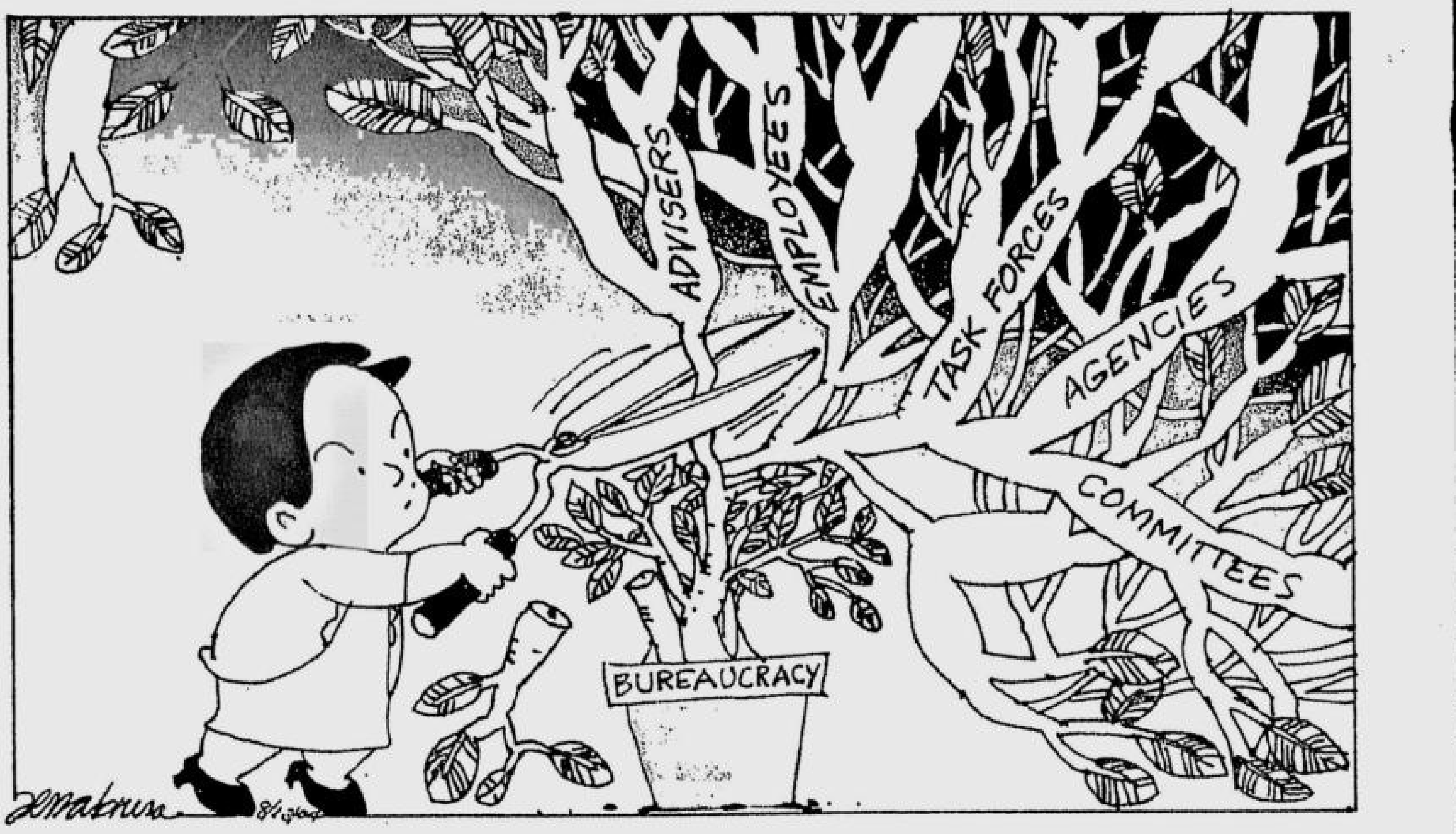
Politics and reality

FOREIGN COMMENT

IT was easy to find officials, at the Democratic convention, who were darkly convinced that George Bush was about to spoil John Kerry's Boston party with a well-timed scene-stealer in the war on terror.

So it is hardly surprising that some of the initial reaction to this week's heightened US terror alert reflects the same suspicion. Within hours of Monday's announcement of a new "high risk" threat level in parts of New Jersey, New York and the District of Columbia, Mr. Kerry's one-time rival Howard Dean went on the airwaves to voice a concern "that every time something happens that's not good for President Bush, he plays this trump card, which is terrorism." It was impossible, Mr. Dean went on, to know "how much of this is real and how much of this is politics, and I suspect there's some of both."

Whatever their private thoughts, Mr. Kerry and his officials were careful not to be drawn down that road; the warning by Tom Ridge, the US homeland security secretary, was made in good faith, they said. It is, though, a mark of the politicization of the war on terror that an announcement of such a kind should immediately be discounted for ulterior motives and that many will be unshakable in their suspicion about both its timing and content. *The Guardian (London)*



Two more idiotic government proposals

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

HERE are two more idiotic proposals from this government:

1. A four-day work week; and
2. Sending a new Filipino team to Iraq.

The first, proposed by Rep. Robert "Ace" Barbers, is to save on expenses, *kuno*. How can you save on expenses when you will pay government employees five days' wages for working only four days?

If the government will deduct a day's pay every week from the salaries of its employees and officials, then the proposal can probably be justified. But government will never do that, otherwise it would have a revolution in its hands.

Besides, the public already cannot get the services it needs from government employees working five days a week. How much less would it get on a four-day work week? President Macapagal-Arroyo said the other day that her administration will not only reduce red tape but speed up the processing of papers. How could the government do that when the President is going to reduce the working days?

I think the proposal is only a ploy for congressmen to hold sessions only four days a week so they will have longer weekends to play politics in their home districts, or to play golf or to go on quick trips abroad.

If the congressmen really want to save on expenses, they should first of all abolish the pork barrel, reduce their excessive allowances, turn off the air conditioners in their offices, and refrain from traveling abroad.

* * *

The other proposal—to send another team of Filipinos to Iraq—is obviously intended for the Arroyo administration to stay in the good graces of the US. We want so much to stay within the "coalition of the willing" (read "lackeys"). Why?

We joined it to fight terrorism. But the war against Iraq was launched and is being waged under false pretenses. The American team that spent months looking for "weapons of mass destruction" in Iraq admitted there were no such weapons. The real weapons of mass destruction were dropped by American planes and fired by American warships and tanks. It was the Americans that thoroughly terrorized the Iraqis. So whose terrorism will our new team fight in Iraq?

If the Americans and Iraqis want the Filipinos to continue doing humanitarian work, they should hire more Filipino civilian workers to build roads and bridges and schools, and more doctors and nurses to attend to the health of the Iraqis. They don't need Filipino soldiers and policemen.

Besides, another Filipino team in Iraq will expose more Filipinos to the militant headhunters in Iraq. This time, President Arroyo will not be as willing to save them as she did Angelo de la Cruz.

Furthermore, it would not only be the Filipinos in Iraq who would be at risk but also those here at home. Iraqi militants may export their terrorist bombs here to force our government to recall the Philippine team.

We're better off now. Why spoil it?

* * *

One example of how government funds are wasted is this case in the Department of Agriculture. In an open letter to the President, a group of DA employees, calling themselves "the network of concerned officers and employees of DA," claimed that former Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo and his friends spent millions of pesos of DA funds for their travels.

I am not saying that the accusation is accurate, but it will be helpful to the government if we quote from the letter and show how the scarce funds of a government with a huge budget deficit could be wasted.

In the letter to the President, the group said that according to the official report of disbursement by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), "Lorenzo was shown to have diverted part of P10 million designated for a fishery project called 'Mitigating Damages on Fisheries Caused by the El Niño Phenomenon.'

"The report said that from Dec. 12, 2003 to June 8, 2004, BFAR disbursed, using the fishery project fund, a total of P1.341 million as payment to Subic International Air Charter (SIAC) for various plane usage of Secretary Lorenzo."

Separate disbursements for aviation fuel and private plane use by Lorenzo were allegedly made on Feb. 27, 2004, for P223,769 under check no. 386460, and P873,425 under check no. 386461; on April 23, 2004 for P110,316 under check no. 386471; and on May 21, 2004 for P17,609 under check no. 386461.

"The checks paid to SIAC by BFAR reached a grand total of P2.566 million in five months," the letter said. "Had Lorenzo used a commercial airline, this amount would have been equivalent to 325 round trip tickets from Manila to Davao and back, business class."

According to the group, Lorenzo also used "bridge financing to the El Niño project" to pay a P853,247 for Learjet charters, care of Philippine Genetics Inc. (PGI), a government-owned and -controlled corporation (GOCC) attached to the department. A separate P500,000 was also disbursed for the private jet, care of another DA-attached GOCC, Livelihood Corp. of the Phils. (Livecor). This P500,000 was disallowed by a COA auditor.

In the 20 months that Lorenzo was at the department, he traveled extensively. Department records for 2003 showed that Lorenzo traveled to the US (June 21-27), Thailand (Aug. 28-30), Cuba (Aug. 31-Sept. 5), Singapore (Oct. 11-14), China (Nov, 9-16), The Hague, Belgium and Italy (Nov. 28-Dec.3).

For his plane fare alone to Cancun, Mexico, the group claimed the department paid P445,916 to Budget Travel and Tours. Other travels, charged to the Philippine government, were to Abu Dhabi, Madrid, Paris and Hong Kong. "For this Abu Dhabi to Hong Kong trip alone, Lorenzo and each of his companions reportedly received $10,000 cash advances from PGI," the group said.

An office for pious incantations

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

THE PRESIDENT has created a Presidential Commission on Values Formation. Executive Order 314 recognizes that "just and moral governance [is a] critical lynchpin of the success of th[e] Administration." It creates an office, to be headed by no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo herself, to organize "seminars and congresses [to] inculcat[e] values such as honesty, modesty, integrity and good work ethics in the government bureaucracy." It was announced that this commission fulfills an election promise made by the President.

To the government's credit, we finally hear it affirmed from on high that values are important to our daily lives; that they are not just those amorphous sermons we hear in temples of worship, or sage counsel from our elders; that forgetting about values costs us dearly as a nation. Corruption and patronage politics sap our meager wealth, divert scarce moneys from the public good to feed private greed, reward the dishonest and punish the upright. EO 314 admirably zeroes in on symptoms that we are ethically impoverished: "apathy, passivity, mendicancy, factionalism and lack of patriotism."

But to the government's discredit, having raised the monumental challenge, it proffers but a meager reply: a government office that will at best traffic in pious incantations. What after all will those "seminars and congresses" produce? Resolutions containing big words strung together, much like the Philippine Constitution's Preamble invoking "truth, justice, freedom, love, equality and peace," where nice words substitute for hard thinking. Indeed, those who ask that courts decide according to "justice, equity and fairness" must realize that each of those standards will actually yield different results. Therein lies the trap in our past ethics campaigns.

First, we continue to be tyrannized by the notion that what we need is an ethics catechism, a holdover of old school pedagogy that good ethics is merely a matter of knowing and remembering rules. If that were so, then the lawyers should be the most ethical beings (and on that same vein, doctors should have the healthiest lifestyles and should all be non-smoking, non-drinking, non-chicharon-bulaklak-eating exemplars of wholesome living). For sure, knowing the do's and don'ts is indispensable, but I reckon many of us know the rules already, and the problem is one of compliance and enforcement.

Next, we resort to the tried and tested cop-out that ethics merely tells the brain what the rules are, but cannot force the heart to follow. EO 314 says the new commission will organize seminars and congresses, but believe me, when those forums are over, an ethics sensei will intone with a solemn and profound look, "We have told you the rules already, but what you do afterwards is your personal choice." By such an argument, he has done exactly the opposite of what he preaches: he does a Pontius Pilate and washes his hands. Indeed, if moral (and immoral) choices are made by the heart, it is still the brain that provides the excuses. It is the intellect that crafts the easy way out, that shows the path from conscience to compromise.

I recall a TV ad which shows a car speeding away, but pausing briefly as the driver tosses trash outside the window. The voice of a child asks the dad why, and the dad explains with an air of moral certainty: "Of course, *anak, clean yata tayo!*" The child's natural intuition of right and wrong is deftly twisted by a grown-up's clever but warped logic, which exalts personal hygiene while causing public filth.

In this light, this new Commission can still actually make a difference. Its first task is what I call the "recognition of moral choice." It must explain to the Pinoy, so given to "situated ethics" and "smooth interpersonal relations," that normal people in other parts of the world actually make choices on the basis of norms, of values, of moral standards; that not all decisions are made on the basis of what is popular and pragmatic, and that those who preach "moral relativism," the "it-depends" approach to morality, must still answer the questions "relative to what" and "depends on what." This is the threshold challenge in our post-Edsa democracy, where we think that for every choice, it is best to count votes rather than weigh competing moral claims.

Even more urgently, it must recast the entire ethics campaign away from black-and-white dilemmas where the forces of light battle the forces of evil, and the moral choice is so stark, so dramatic (and, oh, so Pinoy!). It must resituate ethics in our day-to-day work, and teach the Filipino that every choice—be it to jump the queue at a cafeteria, to "counter-flow" illegally in traffic, or look the other way when guards shoo away street children who forage for leftover french fries in garbage bins outside McDonalds—is a moral choice, and that come Judgment Day, all these will count!

It must, for instance, survey our students and young professionals on the dilemmas of conscience that they face in their lives, so that we can save their souls before the world stains them indelibly.

Unless this new commission raises its ambitions a bit higher, it will actually be better off simply taking the backseat in favor of enforcement agencies like the ombudsman, the National Bureau of Investigation, the lifestyle checkers at the anti-graft commission—and the trash-tossers, the red-shirted troops of the MMDA. These agencies easily provide the cut-and-dried answers, but only a presidential commission can seek the tough questions that have remained unasked.

De Castro's new plumage

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

WHETHER or not half of the Arroyo Cabinet is in or out is not that terribly important. The new administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has been in office for already three weeks, she has not shaken up the Cabinet to convey the impression that, with the change of government, things are moving.

The President has said that the Cabinet revamp will be completed next week. More important to watch is not the completion but who will come in to fill the key portfolios of the secretary of foreign affairs, the defense secretary, the education secretary and the executive secretary.

The President has been cautious in changing the Cabinet, taking one step at a time, backtracking when an appointment encounters strong public reaction—as in the case of the replacement of Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman.

This piecemeal approach has turned Cabinet formation into a process that submits appointments to public opinion referenda. It is not a mark of a decisive presidency. Those who have been appointed—among them Angelo Reyes as interior secretary and Arturo Yap, as agriculture secretary—have been accepted as competent people in the right places, but they have not been spectacular appointments. With half of the Cabinet made up of holdovers, their appointments have not created waves.

The picture is that one of the President's legs is planted on the old order and the other on the new administration. The half measure does not convey boldness and sense of urgency to shake things up. It defines the tempo of the administration's first 100 days—during which she should be stirring up the nation with policy initiatives and refreshing faces of new men and women in the Cabinet. Pretty soon, a third of the hundred days will be gone, and her government is not sprinting but is merely coasting on tired legs.

After being bogged down by the question of what to do with Vice President Noli de Castro, she has at last decided with a solution that puts the Vice President in a nest of waffles. One of the most important decisions of a new president is what to do with his vice president or how to keep him busy so he/she can't be a source of mischief. She has decided to appoint De Castro as presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers, a new creation with no regular portfolio. Of course, De Castro sits in Cabinet as Vice President, but being an adviser is not like being a foreign affairs secretary, defense secretary, finance secretary, interior secretary, or social welfare secretary. As cabinet secretary, one is in a position as if he rules a fiefdom.

To give his position substance or line of authority, the President has put three new ornamental plumes on De Castro's hat. She appointed De Castro as co-chair of the National Poverty Commission, and as chair of the boards of Philippine Overseas Workers Administration and of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration. Labor Secretary Patricia Sto.Tomas was pushed out of these two posts in the juggling.

This gerrymandering of Cabinet posts is a masterpiece of a shell game. Sto. Tomas has lost some functions but De Castro has not gained substantive power and authority—only an illusion. However, De Castro can now face the mirror and admire his colorful plumage.

Of course, it can't be dismissed that the welfare of the 7-8 million Filipino overseas workers and job creation are strategic cornerstones of the Arroyo administration. The President underlined this when she risked breaking her alliance with US President George W. Bush by pulling out the Filipino contingent in Iraq to save the life of driver Angelo de la Cruz. And the creation of close to 10 million jobs by the end of her term is a key objective of her 10-point pro-poor agenda and State of the Nation Address.

Although eradication of poverty is a priority aim of the Arroyo administration, the President has not given De Castro full responsibility for the anti-poverty program. They will share credit, if it succeeds.

Before De Castro thinks he has been had, he has to consider seriously that his new positions have placed him on strategic areas where he could expand his political constituency—among the overseas workers and the poor.

The structure of these arrangements—in which De Castro has no executive or operational powers and functions—undermines their capacity to deliver results.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo is being groomed either to be foreign affairs secretary or ambassador to Washington—for which his extensive experience in the executive office and the Senate has given him excellent qualifications. The important question is whether the foreign affairs portfolio goes to a career diplomat or an outsider (from the private sector). This has been an old question. But in that position both career diplomats and outsiders have proved their competence. For example, Joaquin Elizalde, Raul Manglapus, Roberto Romulo, Narciso Ramos, among others, have proved that career diplomats don't have an exclusive franchise for the position, to run the DFA well. On the other hand, career diplomats, such as Carlos P. Romulo, Salvador Lopez and Mauro Mendez, have left brilliant records

The important consideration today is that Philippine foreign policy is at a critical turning point, considering the current tensions in the Philippine-US relations, over our status in the coalition of the willing. The appointment of the next foreign affairs secretary is being watched for two things: first, whether the new appointee reflects and can articulate the President's policy; and, second, whether he/she heralds a profound policy shift regarding relations with the US or a more independent foreign policy.

The first Fil-Am bishop

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"I DIDN'T expect such a reception!" exclaims Bishop Oscar Azarcon Solis, who is in town for a vacation being taken a few months after his ordination as the first Filipino-born bishop of the United States. "In my previous visits, I could walk around a mall in a T-shirt and walking shorts and nobody would bother me. Nowadays, I have to be conscious of my appearance because people now notice me."

Indeed. Seeing me to the driveway of his sister Celia Tapia's home in White Plains, he caught the attention of my driver, who inquired: "Ma'am isn't that the bishop who just arrived from the States?"

Over lunch of *paksiw na lechon* (evidence of the number of *lechons* that have been sent since the bishop's arrival) and *sinigang na sugpo*, the bubbly Ms Tapia and her husband Antonio, a retired bank executive, were full of stories about the many important people they had met since Bishop Solis' arrival—from Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales with whom they had breakfast that morning, to President Macapagal-Arroyo, who served them chocolates.

Bishop Solis himself was largely quiet, seemingly unaware of—or perhaps uncomfortable with—his newfound fame. He was scheduled to leave for their home province of Nueva Ecija the next day. A back-breaking schedule of Masses indicates that if the bishop thought his reception in Manila was hectic, then the welcome he will receive from his provincemates will be nothing less than dizzying.

But who can blame Filipinos, in the US and here, from embracing the new prelate with pride and affection? As he himself puts it, his designation as the newest Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, one of the largest in the United States (perhaps second only to Chicago, he says), is a recognition of the growing role of Filipino-Americans in the renewal of the Roman Catholic Church in the US.

* * *

"FILIPINOS are considered a religious and spiritual people," he avers. In Los Angeles, he notes, "80 percent of the parish volunteers are Filipino-Americans." And they haven't been exactly shy about imprinting the life of the parish with distinct Pinoy touches. You can tell which, among the thousands of parishes in the archdiocese, are predominantly Filipino, says Bishop Solis, because these would be the ones that celebrate the "*Simbang Gabi*" as well as *novenas* and feast days.

"But as a bishop, I serve not only the Filipino-American faithful," Bishop Solis stresses. "I have to put my foot down sometimes because you know how possessive Filipinos can be. I would be spending all my time attending weddings, *fiestas* and family events—and putting on so much weight from all the food that would be served—if I weren't strict about my commitments."

Bishop Solis believes his appointment was made mainly in recognition of the "Asian presence" in the Church in California. He is the third Asian-American to be ordained bishop in California in the past two years, the first two being a Chinese-American in the San Francisco diocese, and the other a Vietnamese-American in the Diocese of Orange County.

In fact, upon his transfer to Los Angeles, Bishop Solis was appointed to head, indeed, create the Office of Ethnic Ministries, charged with formulating a master plan on how the local church could "respect the ethnic identities of the faithful, integrate their traditions into liturgy and parish life, while making sure we remain universal and catholic (meaning, all-embracing)." Adds the Bishop: "We want to build inclusive communities that recognize and affirm the distinct qualities of our ethnic groups while emphasizing our commonalities."

* * *

BISHOP Solis faces quite a formidable challenge. He serves as one of five auxiliary bishops of the archdiocese that covers three counties—Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara. There are about five million Catholics out of the 11 million residents, with Masses being celebrated every Sunday in 42 languages, including Filipino. The Bishop estimates that about 400,000 are of Filipino origin, while a study commissioned by the archdiocese predicted that by 2020, around 50 percent of all Catholics in the archdiocese would be Hispanic.

This is why the bishop is brushing up on his Spanish and has lost the Southern drawl that he developed while serving for 15 years in Louisiana as a parish priest and dean (the equivalent of the vicar forane who looks after administrative matters) in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux.

To this day, Bishop Solis speaks with fondness of the people of Louisiana, who, with their religiosity, close family ties and just as sturdy ties to their parish, reminded him so much of home. "They were so important to me that I just had to return there to celebrate the 25th anniversary of my ordination last April," he adds. "A bittersweet love story" is how he describes his relationship with the largely Cajun folk of his old diocese.

* * *

BUT as Bishop Solis says of his being appointed to the bishopric: "You have to be a good soldier."

He actually arrived in Los Angeles in the wake of a horrendous clergy sex abuse scandal that didn't spare his new place of assignment. In one case, even if it didn't involve child abuse, seven Filipino priests were implicated in a case filed by a young woman who claimed all of them had "used" her for sex.

"It was a big blow, not just to the American Church, but to the entire Catholic Church," says Bishop Solis of the still-ongoing scandal, even if, he notes, "it seems people are now fed up hearing about it." In Los Angeles and elsewhere, he adds, independent review boards, with lay people among them, are now charged with hearing allegations of clergy abuse.

And would he be comfortable serving alongside women priests? "Personally, I wouldn't mind," he says, "but I don't think it will happen in my lifetime."

'Far Eastern Olympics'

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ATHLETIC trophies are so easy to get these days, all you need is cash. Trophies of all shapes and sizes can be bought off the rack. You can have them personalized even if you're not into sports. What I cannot understand though is that, despite modern technology, we seem to have lost good design and craftsmanship. Trophies today are not only tacky, they are made of cheap materials that tarnish in more ways than one. You cannot sell or pawn a modern trophy, unlike older ones that were usually made of sterling silver. I acquired one from a junk shop (upscale ones are called antique shops): a large silver trophy engraved with the words, "Far Eastern Olympic Association Permanent Trophy Track and Field Sports Presented by The Governor-general of the Philippine Islands Hon. W. Cameron Forbes 1913." Aside from its metal value, there was some historical value in it as well. Forbes (pronounced Por-bes) is not just the name of a major street in Sampaloc, Manila, it is also the name of the premiere gated community in the country—Forbes Park. This piece of history I now use as a wine cooler during parties.

How come I had never heard of the Far Eastern Olympic Association? A bit of research produced some data. In 1912 E.S. Brown, president of the Philippine Athletic Association and Manila Carnival games, proposed the creation of the Far Eastern Olympic Games to China and Japan. At the end of January 1913, the bi-annual games were inaugurated in Manila. William Cameron Forbes was the first president of the Philippine Amateur Athletic Association from 1911-1913. The second games were held in Shanghai in 1915, the third in Tokyo in 1917, where the games and association were renamed the Far Eastern Championship Games/Far Eastern Amateur Athletic Association because the nationalistic Japanese wanted the word "Olympic" dropped. Eventually it became known as the Far Eastern Games and what little I know of the fifth one held in Shanghai comes from a 1921 article by Camilo Osias proudly highlighting, "The First Victory of Filipino Athletes on Foreign Soil." I do not have the statistics for previous games but we won so many medals then compared with our poor harvest in contemporary South East Asian and Olympic Games.

Why do we always speak of our athletic glories in the past tense? When we speak of the economy and other good times, we also do so in the past tense? Surely, there is a way to explain this. But as I looked at the roster of events and the names of the athletes who brought home the bacon: Eduardo Suela, Pedro Zorilla, Alberto Nicolas, Moises Reyes Lucas, Antonio Alo Pedro Abiera, Vicente B. Lopez, Valentin Malinao, Francisco Danao, to name a few, not a single one rang a bell. Have we forgotten so easily? Aside from the names, the 1921 roster showed that we had such a strong team that we won in practically all events except the five-mile run, pentathlon and 440-yard swim. We always shared the spotlight with Japan that won second place over-all, while China only won three medals, all gold for the pentathlon, discuss throw and running high jump. In two events, pole vault and 440-meter dash, the Philippines won the first, second and third places. Today, China and Japan are formidable athletic teams, what happened to us?

I regained my humor after reading the article twice. I was reading a 1921 article with a modern 2004 mind-set temporarily losing context. I blamed our athletes and athletic program without realizing that the statistics of 1921 should not be compared with 2004. In the 1921 Far Eastern Games there were only 350 athletes from three countries: China, Japan and the Philippines. In 2004 Athens Olympics, there are over 200 accredited Olympic committees from various countries. In 1921, the Philippines sent 143 athletes, about a third of the total athletes then competing in the Far Eastern Games. In Athens, we have a contingent of 16 athletes broken down as follows: two badminton players, four boxers, three into taekwondo, three swimmers, two athletics (whatever that means) one marksman and one archer. We may have the greatest athletes but we are limited by numbers. How can we make a dent when we have 16 athletes competing with 339 from Great Britain, 361 from Japan, 459 from China (with an additional 110 from Chinese Taipei), 585 from the Russian Federation, and 796 athletes from the United States of America?

In 1921, Osias already outlined the need for a large park or stadium where Filipino athletes could train. At least the Rizal Memorial Coliseum was built. Then Osias justified funding with words that sound like the advice given by the Philippine Olympic Committee or Philippine Sports Commission today:

"An all important consideration in a nation-wide program of physical education is money. The people must realize that money appropriated for a universal program of athletics is money not spent but invested. We must be consistent and systematic in our preparation...No short-sighted policy or half-hearted efforts can accomplish real results. We must build for the future and to do this we must act immediately and continue active preparation."

This column should not depress readers, but when you look back, you should ask when will we learn and be liberated from our past?

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Papayas, mangoes and population

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

FINALLY, I've been able to get a copy of House Bill 16—authored by Rep. Edcel Lagman—that has generated so much public debate supposedly because the bill proposes a "two-child policy." Immediately, people began imagining something like China's former one-child policy with penalties imposed for violations.

I didn't want to jump into the discussions until I'd read the bill. Now that I have, I can say this: it does not propose anything close to China's former policy, or even to milder versions such as Singapore's two-child policy. In fact, Lagman's bill goes to great lengths to make sure people's rights are respected around reproductive decisions, with penalties prescribed for anyone who attempts to force family planning.

Head in the sand

The rationale for Lagman's bill is the proposition that we have a serious overpopulation problem and that government must act now. For too long, we've been like the proverbial ostrich with its head in the sand, not just blind but deaf to the studies conducted by demographers and public health experts, warning about this problem.

Many Filipinos, the President included, would argue there is no population problem. Some anti-family planning stalwarts even argue that it's good we have so many Filipinos because we can export them to generate foreign exchange. I find that argument repugnant, given the way this export of human labor is costing us so much in terms of families left behind. Just look at Angelo de la Cruz, who left eight children here to work in Iraq and nearly lost his life there.

Another argument used against family planning is that our underdevelopment isn't due to a large population but to government corruption and inefficiency. We are assured that if we have a change of values—clean up government, clean up our act and get development going—couples, as a result, would voluntarily limit their family size, even without government support.

But how long would all this take? Even if we were to clean up government within the next six years, which I doubt we can do, we would have lost too much time. I'm not putting ourselves down—history tells us that even in western countries, cleaning up corruption took several generations. And even after economic and political stability had been achieved, it took three to four generations for voluntary family planning—at least, without government intervention—to kick in.

On the other hand, there is ample evidence from contemporary history—from countries like Sri Lanka, Thailand and Tunisia—showing that even while a country continues to develop, government support for family planning services can dramatically bring down birth rates, thus helping a country to develop faster. The example of Thailand is particularly useful—the country is still battling corruption but with its fertility rates brought down dramatically, it is able to develop more rapidly than we are doing.

Population management

Lagman's bill provides a vital ingredient for family planning: government support. It's best I just quote directly from Lagman's bill for his definition of population management: "a program that aims to: (a) encourage the limitation of the number of children to an affordable level of two (2) children per family; (b) attain an optimum fertility rate vis-á-vis equitable allocation and utilization of resources; (c) realize a balanced spatial distribution of the population by discouraging migration to urban centers and decongesting thickly populated areas; (d) promote the effective partnership among the national government, local government units and the private sector in the design, implementation, coordination, integration, monitoring and evaluation of people-centered programs on population, development and environment; and (e) conduct studies on and provide incentives for the deceleration of population growth."

There is only one other reference in the bill to the "two-child" standard—Section 13, which is sub-titled "Ideal Family Size" reads: "In order to attain the desired population growth rate, the State shall encourage two (2) children as the ideal family size. Children from these families shall have preference in the grant of scholarships at the tertiary level."

Lagman's bill provides more support to develop an environment conducive to family planning, but, contrary to media reports, it does not actually require couples to limit themselves to having two children.

Note that in the section on an ideal family size, the word "preference" is used for scholarships given to children from small families. Lagman's bill doesn't mean that a third child would be denied a scholarship. Frankly, I think this isn't too much of an incentive because our government doesn't have that many scholarships in the first place, whether for the first-born or eighth-born.

It's interesting that people never complain about our income tax law, which allows deductions only up to the fourth child. This is actually a form of disincentive, apparently an ineffective one, for large families. Personally, I do not like "punishments," but I wouldn't mind seeing more incentives for couples responsible enough to care about the welfare of mothers, of families and of the nation.

Peaches and pomegranates

Lagman's bill should stimulate us to look as well to the experiences of other countries in population management. China's experiences with their one-child policy, which has actually been rescinded at least in terms of penalties, should be studied. There's too much that could be written about the Chinese experience, but for today's column, I did want to at least look into the origins of that policy.

China's one-child policy was first imposed in 1979, only after more than 20 years of warnings from demographers and public health planners that China was overpopulated. It was only after Chairman Mao died that China could go full force with family planning because Mao had stubbornly insisted that each child meant extra hands to develop the economy, and that China's underdevelopment was due to imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism (read corruption).

When Deng Xiaoping took over, with his ambitious plans for economic development, population management was given top priority. From Mao's "pomegranate" policy—the pomegranate being a fruit with many seeds—Deng turned to a "peach" population policy, using the symbolism of the peach having only one seed per fruit.

Mao's arguments are exactly those used today by our anti-family planning groups. I hope we don't repeat China's mistake by continuing to reject the population program; and then waking up one day realizing we have reached the point of disaster and then coercively imposing a one-child policy. I can imagine campaigns calling for a shift from the papaya to the mango, a campaign that will be too inane, too late.

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Penalizing law-abiding taxpayers

I FIND it distressing that the Arroyo administration wants to penalize law-abiding citizens and corporations with new and heavier taxes. I am referring specifically to the proposed tax on texting.

The 25 million or so users of cell phones in the Philippines already pay 10 percent VAT for every text message sent. Thus, I can't understand why the government wants to turn people off from using this very important means of communication by slapping it with more taxes.

If taxes make too costly the sending of text messages, the people would surely shun this service thereby reducing the volume of taxable messages. The better tack is for government to encourage texting some more so that it would have more messages to tax.

It's good that PLDT has clarified that it paid P9.7 billion in taxes last year and expects to pay P13 billion this year. The carrier's explanation that it is already heavily taxed (32 percent corporate income tax, 20 percent withholding tax, 10 percent VAT and 10 percent overseas communications tax) made mincemeat of government's claim that it needs to tax the telecoms' "windfall profit."

The way I see it, government is the one having a windfall from law-abiding companies, although it's hard to fathom where all the collected taxes are going. Instead of milking dry the taxpaying public and corporations like the PLDT, the government should run after tax evaders.

—Terrie Oracion,
140 Purok I Camp Vicente Lim,
Canlubang, Calamba, Laguna

Use of ABS-CBN statement out of context

THIS is in reference to the article written by Marinel R. Cruz titled, "ABS-CBN set to file 'bigger' case against GMA-7 over Angelo video." (PDI, 8/01/04) In the article, the statement issued by ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. regarding the libel case filed against it by GMA-7 is cited and quoted.

We take exception to the misrepresentation of the INQUIRER and the use of our statement out of context. The statement was issued on July 29 (upon the request of INQUIRER) with the impression that the press statement would be published in response to the libel case filed by GMA-7.

However, instead of publishing it as a response to the libel case, Cruz used the statement to write an article different from the purpose for which it was issued. In addition, Cruz made it appear in her article that our network's statement or news release was the INQUIRER's basis or source for the filing of a "bigger" case against GMA-7.

—MALOLI ESPINOSA-MANALASTAS,
vice president,
Government, Corporate Affairs and PR,
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., Sgt. E.A.
Esguerra Avenue cor.
Mother Ignacia Street, Quezon City

Implement constitutional mandate on local sector representation

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address called on Congress to "start considering the resolutions for Charter change" next year, but failed to mention and address the unimplemented mandates in the 1987 Constitution.

Cha-cha is supposed to enhance the political system, but many of the provisions of the 1987 Constitution that would do so have not yet been implemented. One such provision mandates the participation of the marginalized sector or local sectoral representation (LSR) in local *sanggunians*.

The framers of the 1987 Constitution recognized that the marginal sectors are inadequately represented in lawmaking bodies and introduced LSR as an essential part of democratizing local governance. If the under-represented and marginalized sectors could participate in decision-making relevant to their sectors, local legislation and development interventions would be enhanced and grounded on real experiences.

LSR, if implemented, would address not only the issue of participation of the marginalized sector, but also the entrenched corruption in our local government units, because sectoral representatives could serve as the watchdogs in the local budgeting process. The implementation of the LSR would be a concrete manifestation of the President's "anti-corruption through good government" reform package.

GMA also stated: "*Ang kapangyarihan ng taong bayan ay puso ng demokrasya. Dapat kasama sila sa paghugis ng kanilang kapalaran.*" (People power is the heart of democracy. It is just proper that they should participate in drawing up their destiny.) This can be realized if the administration prioritizes the participation of the under-represented sectors in local decision-making bodies. In the 12th Congress, an LSR bill was passed by the House of Representatives but its counterpart in the Senate did not prosper.

We call on President Arroyo to certify the LSR bill as urgent before the Cha-cha. The marginalized sectors have long awaited genuine representation in the local *sanggunians*. Let it happen this Congress.

—CATHERINE DANO TIONGSON, member,
Task Force LSR, c/o 3 Mahabagin St.,
Teacher's Village, Quezon City

Operating the BNPP

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

I AGREE with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The Bataan Nuclear Power Plant should not be operated. There are several major considerations:

First, getting the nuclear fuel required to run the plant would be a major undertaking, considering the security and logistics involved.

Second, the security involved in guarding the nuclear plant itself.

Third, the most significant and serious problem is the "disposal" of the spent nuclear fuel. Spent nuclear fuel is not really disposed of. It will have to be stored in an underground storage facility, designed like a nuclear material storage depot, with safeguards to prevent leakage or seepage into the land, water and air.

Fourth, an operating nuclear plant would require about 150 engineers from the design engineering company. They have to be assigned permanently at the nuclear plant site. The last I heard, the pay of these engineers ran to $150 dollars per hour each.—**Federico B. Santa Cruz, 506 Saybrooke View Drive, Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA**

* * *

Instead of selling the BNPP, the Department of Energy should consider activating it. Good luck if somebody would be interested [in buying it].—**Jonizel Sioson, Air Operations, Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, PO Box 7 Jacksonville, Florida 32212**

* * *

I hope that the government will make the BNPP operational, but not as a diesel-powered plant. I guess electricity will be cheaper once the BNPP starts operating. We will no longer depend on imported oil for our electricity requirements. Power shortage will not anymore be a problem. There will be no more brownouts. And power rate increases for the Manila Electric Co. will be a thing of the past.

Our lawmakers seem not to be aware enough—or are they are just playing dumb?— of the advantages of a nuclear power plant. Our countrymen should be educated on the benefits of having a nuclear-powered power plant as a source of power supply. —**Lejanson Go, Balagtas Street, Cebu City**

* * *

Filipinos are too conservative and scared to adopt radical solutions—such as having a nuclear power plant supplying the country with power—to national problems. We must decide to make the BNPP operational. Expensive electricity has hampered business growth; it is a turnoff for local and foreign investments.

We must adopt safety measures to secure and keep the plant area restricted from the general public. The plant should not be converted for some other use.—**Attorney Roslee M. Formoso, 4323 Eagle Rock Bl. Apt. 420 Los Angeles, California, USA**

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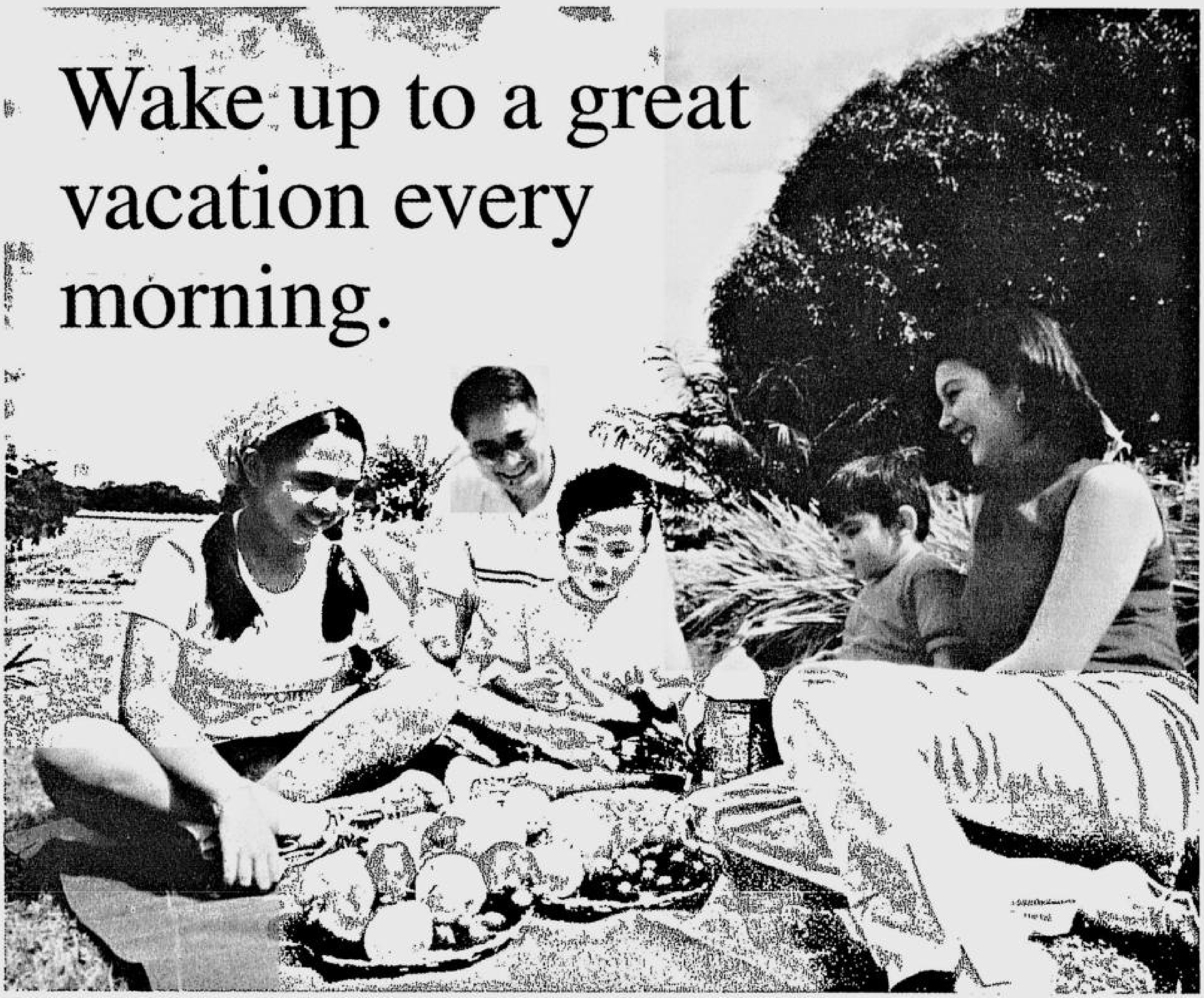
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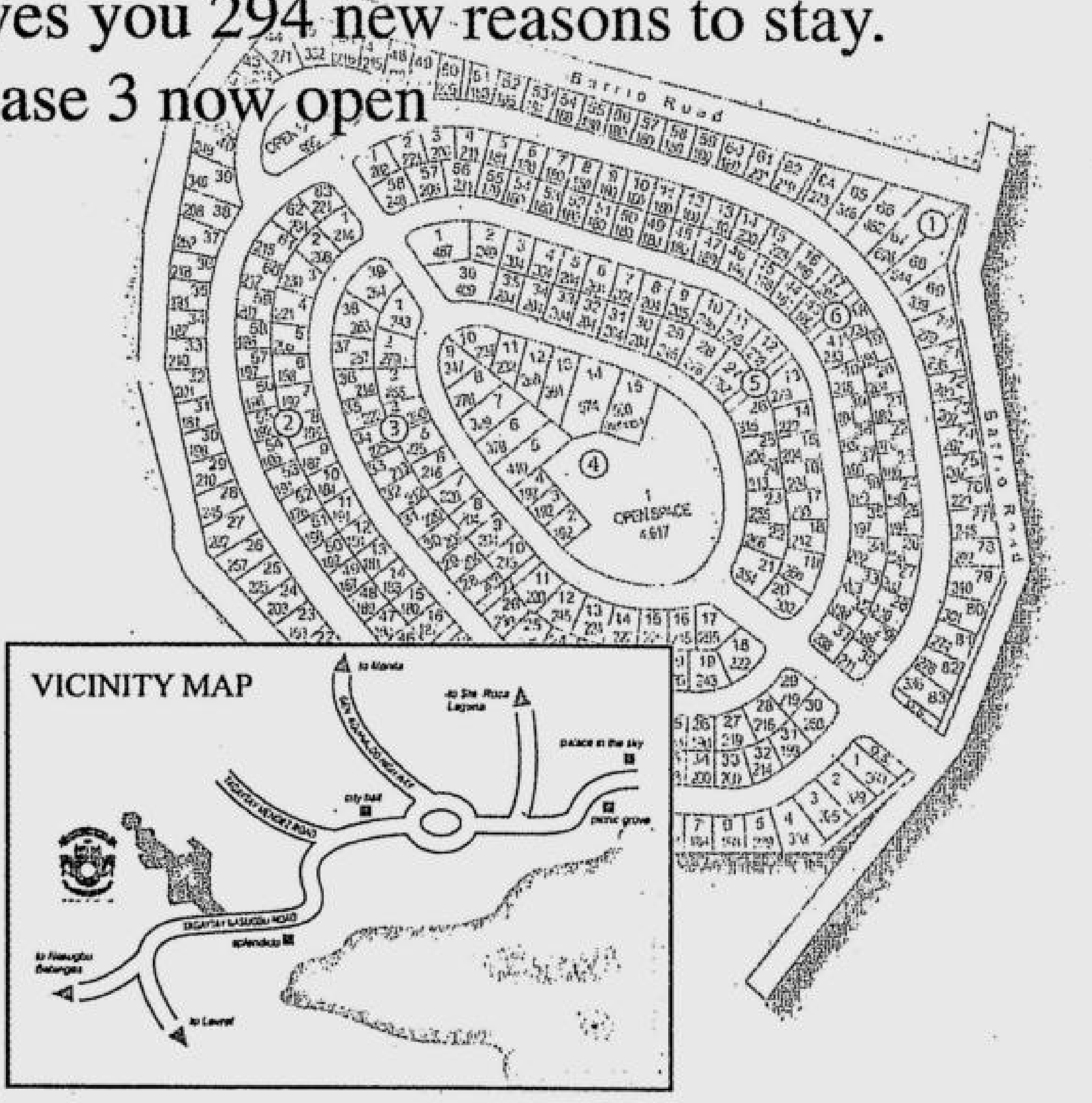

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Troops to join media as journalists

ZAMBOANGA CITY—They will be the real embedded journalists.

At least 30 soldiers from the Philippine Army, Navy and Air Force will soon become members of the mainstream media after they finish a 10-day seminar-workshop set to start next week.

Maj. Gamal Hayudini, chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Civil Relations Service in Western Mindanao, said the soldiers will be trained on "actual radio and television reporting and they will do coverage regularly like the other mainstream media."

Hayudini said the move was an idea of former intelligence chief Victor Corpus. He said initial coordination had been made between officials of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) and the AFP radio station dwDD in Camp Aguinaldo two weeks ago.

After the training, Hayudini said, the soldiers will report directly to radio and television stations, and "do what regular reporters do including following instructions from the station managers."

The AFP, Hayudini said, will pay for the soldier-reporters' salaries.

Hayudini said the move had nothing to do with spying on reporters and journalists' activities, "but simply intensifying the AFP's campaign against terrorism."

In Mati, Davao Oriental, the head of the provincial chapter of the KBP here said the best weapon against threats is responsible reporting.

"You (only) hit because you have to hit people in the government who are not doing their jobs," Romeo Bote Jr., host of a daily commentary program over Manila Broadcasting Company's affiliate station Radyo Natin here, said.

Bote said irresponsible practice could be one reason journalists are being attacked.

"It is really true that many radio broadcasters nowadays have become irresponsible. They attack people in the airwaves without (any) reason and worse, they make money out of that. But that should not be the reason to kill journalists," he said.

Bote said if despite being responsible, journalists are still threatened, then they should already arm themselves.

"The best way to put up a fight against these people who are out to kill us is to arm ourselves. We could no longer rely on government authorities to protect us," he said.

Last year, Bote's Radyo Natin station in Lupon town came under attack.

Unidentified men fired at the station but no one was hurt in the attack.

"I was not inside the radio station when they strafed it. But I know I was their target," he said. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, Julie Alipala and Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Use of texts urged vs birth control plans

CEBU CITY—Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal has called on the people to air their protest against the proposed two-child policy through a text brigade.

He also urged Cebuanos to protect the stand of the Church against population control by sending letters to newspaper editors.

The appeal was made during Vidal's Homily on Tuesday afternoon at the Poor Clare Monastery in Barangay Tayud in Consolacion town, about 30 km from Cebu City.

Vidal said he would not ask the faithful to go to the streets and hold protest rallies against the proposed two-child policy.

It would be enough to "send text messages or write letters to the editors that you are against the two-child policy and other proposed legislation that are contrary to your beliefs as Catholics," said Vidal in his Homily.

Vidal said the responsibility of pushing for the use of only Church-approved family planning methods does not lie solely on bishops and priests but on all "married couples, parents and their children, members of families, people who received the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation and those who receive Communion."

"It is a challenge for me and for all of you, that we should be brave enough to make a stand and to say the truth that the family and our concept of life is again being attacked by the forces of evil," he said.

The Catholic Church has been adamant in its teaching that abortion and the use of artificial contraception violate the commandment "Thou shall not kill," and it allows natural family planning methods.

Helen Ang, spokesperson of the Cebu-based Association of Concerned Texters, a group of about 50 mobile-phone subscribers, said her group would meet to discuss Vidal's proposal. *Bernadette Parco, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Landslides kill 5 in Lanao towns

ILIGAN CITY—Five people, four of them children, were killed and several others injured when landslides, triggered by days of torrential rains, hit at least six Lanao del Sur towns since Tuesday evening, officials said yesterday.

Engineer Asari Mandar of the Provincial Engineer's Office said only the patriarch of a family of six in Barangay Porog in Pualas town escaped death when a landslide buried their house around 11 p.m. on Tuesday.

The bodies of the three children, whose identities were not released, were dug up on Wednesday morning according to Mandar.

He said the mother and another child remain missing.

Mandar said the rains also triggered similar incidents in Kalanugas, Ganasi, Bayang, Lumbatan, and Madamba towns.

"There are reports of injuries in the town of Bayang," he said.

Sheila Ganda of the provincial government's media affairs said the Narciso Ramos Highway, which connects Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao, remains unpassable because of the landslides.

Mandar said damage to property could still not be determined. *Rex G. Ortega, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

DAR hopeful hits 'smear campaign'

PRESIDENTIAL Assistant for Western Visayas Rene Villa decried what he said was a "nasty smear campaign" being waged against him in media ever since his name was mentioned as a possible contender for the position of Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) secretary.

"I categorically deny allegations that I am pro-landlord and that I am being endorsed by big landowners in the Visayas region," Villa said in a press release.

"I challenge my detractors to point to a specific case ... where I represented the interests of big landlord groups," he said.

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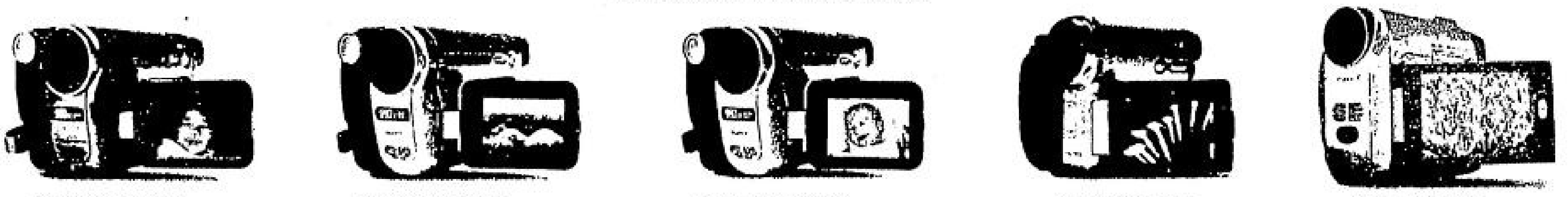

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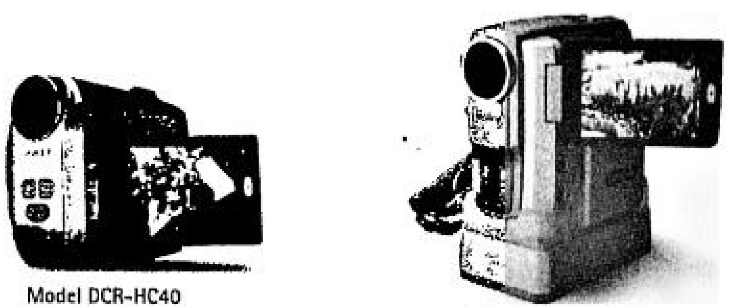

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DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

Sulu congressman seeks increase in pork barrel

DAVAO CITY—Amid proposals to scrap members of Congress' pork barrel funds, a representative from Sulu province is trying to rally the governor and town officials around his demand to increase it.

"Once the pork barrel is taken from us, a poor province like Sulu will suffer," Sulu Rep. Hussin Amin (1st district) told Sulu local government officials in a gathering here.

"*Kawawa tayo* (We are pitiful)," he said, "because the budget will only be poured mostly in Metro Manila and other highly urbanized cities in the country."

"We should ask government to increase, and oppose the scrapping of the pork barrel," said Amin, who was here with Sulu town mayors for an Asian Institute of Management (AIM) training, sponsored by Mirant, a US-based energy company with power generating plants in the Visayas and Luzon.

Waiting game

"If we have to wait for the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) funds, we can only build a post for our much-needed school buildings. We will have to wait another six months for the next release (of funds)," he said.

People in the islands of Sulu are among the poorest in the country, according to studies prepared by the AIM. Amin said it's only through the pork barrel that projects in the area get implemented on time.

"In the past, when government agencies failed, we were able to reach our people through 'pork.' Scrapping it will be very difficult for the poor," he said.

A recent AIM survey showed that aside from having the country's highest poverty level, Sulu has also been suffering from very low agricultural production, the worst kind of environment problems, aggravated by armed fighting in the previous years.

No impact

Most government projects carried out there were roads and bridges and did not have a direct impact on the people's quality of life, according to AIM professor Ernesto Garilao.

Sulu political leaders were in town attending the workshop "Bridging the Sulu Divide."

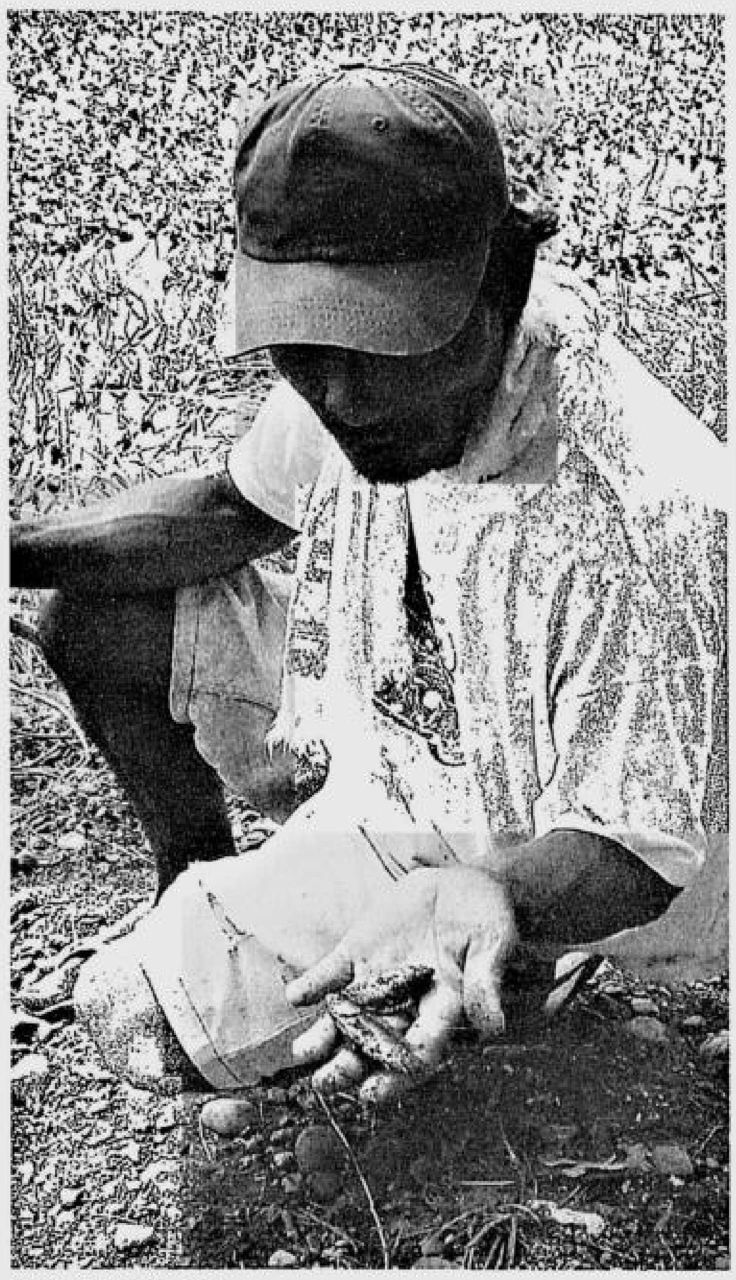
Garilao said the prolonged conflict on the island has taken its toll on the quality of life of people in Sulu.

People there die faster, said Garilao quoting an AIM study.

"They only live up to an average of 52 years, 17 years shorter than those living in other parts of the country," he said.

Garilao, who used to teach at the Notre Dame of Jolo said the "high-trauma and poverty caused by war rob people off 17 years of their life in Sulu."

Garilao also said quality of life in Sulu is the country's lowest, poverty is at its highest. *Germelina A. Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



SMALL CATCH TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

A farmer holds in his hand his farm's yield—a pair of fishes that floods brought to rice paddies in Urdaneta City in Pangasinan.

OFW kin say gov't playing favorites on migrant workers

COTABATO CITY—The family of an overseas Filipino worker who died in Kuwait is calling for an investigation of the OFW's death.

Janet Paradillo's remains arrived in Midsayap on Wednesday and her relatives are demanding to know the real cause of her death.

Rey Paradillo, the victim's husband, said the family is still in a quandary how or what caused the death of his 26-year-old spouse working as domestic helper in Kuwait under the care of the Al-Ghozi Manpower recruitment agency that hired her.

Just like Rey, the Federation of OFWs in Cotabato City and Maguindanao have called the attention of Vice President Noli de Castro following his latest designation as presidential adviser on overseas foreign workers by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Relatives and supporters of the Paradillo family led a campaign to demand an investigation of Janet's death and justice for her in the belief that there was foul play involved.

They unfurled streamers that read "Justice for Janet Paradillo" during rallies here.

Federation members, led by Helen Ayao, said Paradillo is no different from Angelo de la Cruz, an OFW from Pampanga whose life was saved when the Arroyo administration gave in to his captors' demand that Filipino humanitarian troops be pulled out of Iraq ahead of schedule.

De la Cruz is a province mate of Ms Arroyo.

Her decision to give in to the hostage-takers' demands caused friction between the Philippine and US governments.

The Philippines was one of the members of the so-called Coalition of the Willing that agreed to help the United States wage an international war on terrorism.

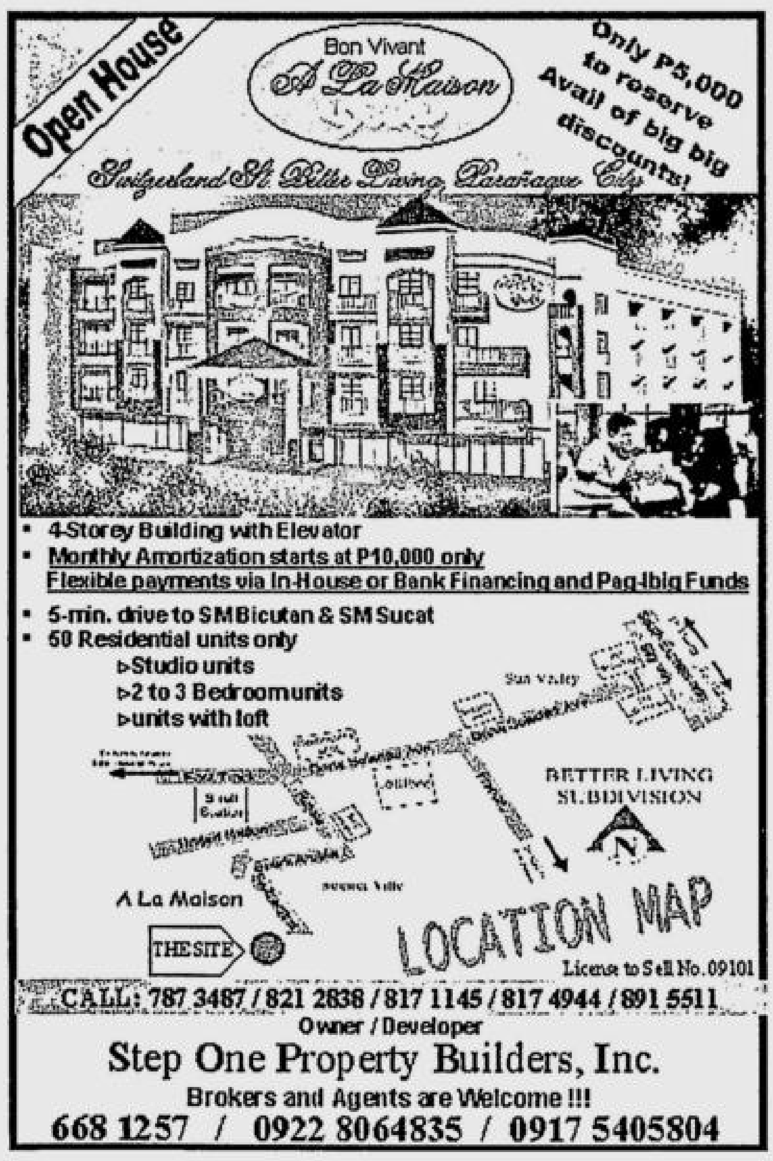
Janet's family said the government should not play favorites in dealing with OFWs. "All we want is the truth about the death of Janet," they said.

Reports on Janet's death were varied and often conflicting.

Embassy sources and reports from her recruitment agency gave conflicting versions of Janet's death, according to Ayao.

"Which is which?" the federation president asked on hearing reports that the mother of one committed suicide by jumping from a burning building, that she was pushed by her unidentified employer to death and that a car accident killed her.

The bereaved family has asked the services of the National Bureau of Investigation to autopsy Pardillo's body before its scheduled burial anytime this week. *Charlie C. Señase and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*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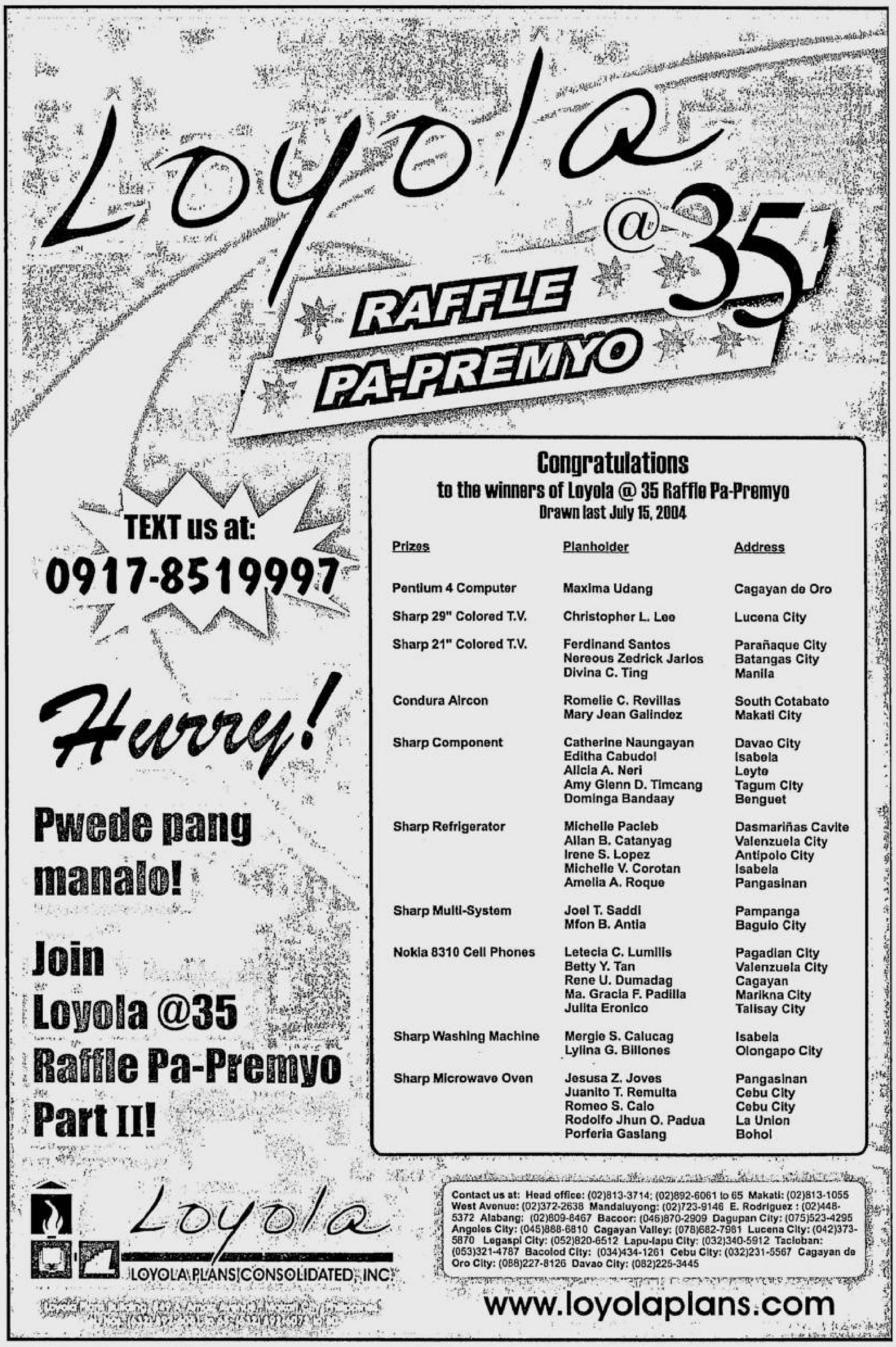
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Terror list hampering talks–Norwegian diplomat

By Jerome Aning

THE REMOVAL of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army from foreign governments' lists of terrorist organizations can help advance the peace talks, according to a Norwegian diplomat posted in Manila.

In a chance interview with reporters, Lars Loberg, charge d'affaires of the Norwegian Embassy, said this was a "political consideration" that officials of the Philippine government had to take.

"If they do so, then they actively take a point that would help the National Democratic Front quite a lot. But whether or not they are willing to do that has to be the result of the ongoing debate inside the government," Loberg said.

The Norwegian government is serving as facilitator of the peace talks between the Philippine government and the NDF, which should have resumed on Aug. 24 in Oslo.

Loberg, who attended yesterday's forum at the Manila Overseas Press Club at which Foreign Secretary Delia Albert was the guest, said he had made inquiries about the Philippine government's policy on the issue.

He expressed dissatisfaction with Albert's reply.

"All she said was that they could not interfere regarding the statement of the European Union or the United States on the terror listing..." Loberg said, adding:

"I also tried to [ask] whether or not there is any proposal of substance in the socio-economic discussions, and she did not answer that at all."

Talks to secure . . .

From page A1

ly sought by Fidelino's family.

Andaya said the Armed Forces and the NPA had both suspended offensive military operations in certain areas in Camarines Sur, where the captives are being held, and in nearby areas in Albay province.

"It's just the right timing [for the release] that we are discussing. These are the last details," he said.

Fidelino and Nemeño were captured by insurgents after an ambush in Camarines Sur last March. They are being held by the NPA Romulo Conyores Command.

The NDF postponed for September the peace talks scheduled to take place in Oslo after the US government renewed its listing of the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the NPA, as foreign terrorist organizations.

In making the announcement, chief NDF negotiator Luis Jalandoni said the government had to fulfill certain "obligations," including doing something about the removal of the CPP-NPA from the terror list, the release of 148 political prisoners, and the indemnification of victims of martial law.

Willing to wait

In a phone interview with the Inquirer's Northern Luzon Bureau, Bello said the government was "willing to wait" for the resumption of the fourth and "most crucial" round of the peace talks with the NDF.

"The Philippine government understands their position. We are optimistic," he said.

He also said President Macapagal-Arroyo was surprised to learn about the postponement of the talks.

"We were ready for the fourth round." he said. "In fact, we were about to leave for Norway next week. *Sayang, handang-handa pa naman kami* (What a shame. We were fully prepared)."

Bello dismissed claims that the government had failed to take a stand against the US government's renewal of its terror tag on the CPP-NPA.

"Who are we to dictate on the US to remove the CPP-NPA-NDF from its list of terrorist [organizations]? They are a sovereign country and so are we," he said.

Not meddling

In Manila, Ricardo Saludo, deputy spokesperson for Ms Arroyo, denied that the United States and the European Union, which had also tagged the CPP-NPA as a terrorist group, were meddling in the Philippine government's efforts to forge a peace agreement with the insurgents.

"They (the US and Europe) are not meddling. And we are saying that any declaration by other countries [regarding] our peace negotiations would not affect these negotiations," he said, adding:

"We want to pursue the talks and we hold the view that statements by other countries should not be an obstacle to the government, the NDF, and the MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front) in our desire to have peace in our country."

Saludo cited the cases of the Israeli government in its negotiations with the Palestinian Liberation Organization and the British government in its talks with the Irish Republican Army.

'Desperate attempt'

He said the two insurgent groups were "terrorist organizations" but this did not get in the way of their respective peace talks.

But Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano said the renewal of the terror tag on the CPP-NPA was a "highly desperate attempt" of the US government to stop the peace talks.

"The US knew very well that social and economic reforms, the next substantive agenda of the peace talks, will hurt its economic and monopolistic interests in the country," he said.

The party-list representative urged the Arroyo administration to exert all efforts to abide by and implement its commitments made in previous joint agreements.

He also said it was in the "best interest of the people" for the peace negotiations to proceed.

On the other hand, Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. (Lakas, Surigao del Sur) said the NDF should "work doubly hard" to clear its name of the terror tag.

He accused the NDF of bad faith for postponing the peace talks.

"We are placed in the awkward situation of negotiating with an alleged terror group. The NDF and the CPP-NPA must work doubly hard to clear their names by actions and not just words, to give whatever accord we may reach maximum credibility," he said.

Pichay said the decision to remove the CPP-NPA from the terror list depended on the rebels themselves. He said the alleged "acts of terrorism" committed by them were the basis of the United States and European Union for the terror tag.

Human rights abuse

In Baguio City, the postponement of the peace talks has not discouraged human rights activists from bringing their cases to the newly formed joint monitoring committee for the Comprehensive Agreement on the Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

The agreement is the first substantive agreement that was signed between the NDF and the Philippine government in 1998. The committee operates autonomously from the peace process.

Today, the Cordillera Human Rights Organization will submit to the committee four complaints of human rights abuse, said CHRO lawyer Mary Ann Bayang.

1st batch of cases

The complaints, comprising the first batch of cases about alleged military abuse in the Cordillera, include the July 24 case of Bernabe Banguey, who died of blood loss after being shot in the leg by pursuing soldiers of the Army's 41st Infantry Battalion in Abra.

The Armed Forces' Northern Luzon Command supposedly identified Banguey and his companion, Fernando Mino, as communist rebels.

Banguey's body was recovered by his family on July 26, according to his brother Jaime.

Bled to death

Dr. Ann Marie Leung, who examined Banguey's exhumed corpse last week, said there was evidence that his assailants allowed him to bleed to death.

Bayang said the cases also included the 2002 killings of Etfew Chadya-as in Mt. Province and Victor Balais in Pinukpuk, Kalinga, and the 2003 killing of Efren Agsayang in Mankayan, Benguet. ***With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Cynthia D. Balana in Manila; Villamor Visaya Jr., Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Gov't to sell vanity plates

From page A1

surplus in only four of the past 19 years. Corruption, weak implementation of tax laws and evasion plague the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), leaving the government reliant on overseas workers and local borrowings to fund its operations.

The President has proposed eight tax measures, including an additional tax of P2 per liter on petroleum products and a tax on the windfall profits of telecommunication firms, to raise P80 billion in additional revenue and save P20 billion. She plans to wipe out the deficit by 2009.

But a number of legislators are opposing the proposed tax measures, saying that agencies like the Bureau of Internal Revenue should first improve revenue collection before imposing new taxes.

10% improvement will do it

A mere 15-percent improvement in tax collection will render moot the need to impose new taxes, according to a study by the office of Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño.

The study also showed that the budget deficit could be wiped out if the government plugged tax leaks amounting to P214.6 billion to P285.3 billion per year.

"Just a 15-percent improvement in tax collection can already generate up to P80.55 billion, which can already match the P80 billion projected under GMA's (Ms Arroyo's) eight revenue proposals," the study said.

Faced with criticism that it was not collecting enough, the BIR announced yesterday that it beat its collection target for July, raising the government's chances of meeting its 2004 budget deficit goal. The BIR accounts for more than two-thirds of the total tax take.

BIR Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said the agency overshot its revenue target of P38.02 billion in July after slightly missing the monthly goal in the last two months. "We exceeded it but we still don't know by how much," Henares said.

The agency collected P33.76 billion in the same month last year.

5-year tax moratorium

Arguing that new taxes will just be passed on to poor consumers, an administration congressman filed a bill providing for a five-year moratorium on additional taxes.

Rep. Pedro Pancho (Lakas, Bulacan) said in House Bill No. 2286 that while new taxes may raise more funds for the government the "burden will be shouldered not by the rich but by poor families."

Pancho said that with consumption diminished because of expected higher prices, businessmen would be discouraged from manufacturing and in turn resort to cheaper-priced imports.

As a consequence, Pancho continued, business activity will slow down and further diminish the tax base from where the government will generate revenues.

Countering Palace tax plan

The Pancho bill is the latest of the initiatives at the House meant to counter Malacañang's plan to impose new tax measures.

Seventy members of the House now comprise the Alliance of Legislators against Regressive Taxes, a group that wants to inquire first into the government's tax efficiency before new taxes are proposed in Congress.

Anakpawis Representatives Crispin Beltran and Rafael Mariano earlier warned of a "taxpayers' revolt" if the Palace pushes through with its proposed tax measures.

In the Senate, opposition to the proposed tax measures has heightened, with the chair of the powerful committee on finance saying that he was not willing to author, or adopt, any new tax measure that would further oppress the people.

Sen. Manuel Villar told the Inquirer that imposing new taxes should be the last resort of the cash-strapped administration to bridge the budget gap.

Villar said he was aware that his position would make it hard, if not impossible, for allies of Ms Arroyo in Congress to pass the proposed P2 per liter oil tax and the franchise tax on telecommunications firms, among other tax proposals.

He then advised the President and her economic managers to lay off.

Villar's role is crucial because all tax measures will pass through his committee. All proposed tax measures emanate from the House of Representatives, but the Senate as a co-equal body has the power to adopt, modify, or reject them.

Galvanized opposition

Villar's decision not to sponsor any new taxes had effectively galvanized the opposition of administration Senators Joker Arroyo, Ralph Recto and Miriam Defensor-Santiago to the proposed tax on fuel and telecommunication firms.

Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Mar Roxas have also expressed reservations on the matter.

The nine-member minority bloc led by Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Edgardo Angara are also against the tax measures.

Recto said that if Malacañang wanted the proposed tax package to win public approval, government must "earmark a certain percentage of the income from a proposed tax for activities that will be beneficial to the people."

He said the government should specify where proceeds of the taxes would go by itemizing programs and projects to be funded by the additional revenues.

Inefficiency is real problem

Villar explained that he decided not to sponsor any new taxes because existing taxes were sufficient to cover the budget deficit.

He believed that the real problem was the inefficiency and corruption that plague tax-collection agencies such as the BIR, Bureau of Customs and Land Transportation Office.

"There must be proof that the executive has done its share (in collecting taxes). There must be an honest-to-goodness collection of taxes," he said.

Villar suggested that Congress amend existing tax laws only to clarify gray areas, find creative ways of raising or improving tax revenues and pursue tax proposals that will improve tax collection efficiency. ***Reports from AFP, Reuters, Carlito Pablo and Michael Lim Ubac***

Mikey: No Kampi plot, others out to get JDV

From page A1

working to undermine Kampi's alliance with the Lakas leadership.

Kampi was formed by President Arroyo when she ran for vice president in 1998.

Save your breath

From De Venecia's camp, the word was: Save your breath, there is no coup.

The Speaker urged all congressmen to stop wasting precious time and energy speculating on moves against him, and start doing their jobs instead.

"We are fighting for the survival of the nation," a dismayed De Venecia said. "We can solve this major financial crisis [only] by uniting and working together.

The report quoted a source as saying that the plot was the result of the Speaker's being "uncooperative" with Malacañang.

Family affair

"I want to make this clear," Mikey said. "There is no truth to that. There was no Kampi caucus in Hong Kong. It was a family affair, and we just had fun. We did not talk politics."

The Inquirer report placed First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, his daughter Luli, his brother Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo (Kampi, 5th district, Negros Occidental), and Mikey Arroyo at the supposed venue of the meeting. In attendance were not just Kampi congressmen, the source said, but also other party members, including those in its think tank.

Mikey Arroyo reminded the media: Wasn't he the one who made the motion on July 26—the opening of the 13th Congress—for De Venecia's fourth election as Speaker? Didn't his uncle Iggy second the motion? And at a fellowship dinner that he hosted three days before that, Mikey Arroyo also recalled, his mother made a "categorical endorsement" for his godfather.

Clumsy effort

Rep. Ronaldo Puno (1st district, Antipolo), Kampi president, called the rumor a "clumsy effort to drive a wedge between Kampi and Speaker Jose de Venecia."

"Pure political intrigue," was the assessment of House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles' (Lakas, 1st district, Davao City).

Rep. Anthony Miranda (4th district, Isabela), Kampi spokesperson, blamed the story on "insecure solons around JDV." These detractors were "trying to put Kampi in a bad light," he said, "something they will regret."

Support factor

Miranda stressed that De Venecia himself had welcomed Kampi as a support factor for the House leadership.

To illustrate, Miranda said, more than three committees were given to Kampi, although the committee chairs "were mislabeled as Lakas or NPC (Nationalist People's Coalition) members."

Clearly, he said, there were still those who refused to acknowledge Kampi as a force to reckon with in the lower chamber.

The President's son didn't think it was important to determine which political group all the talk was coming from. Speaking in Filipino, Mikey Arroyo said: "Politics is really like this, filled with speculation."

Text power to report gov't grafters

From page A1

one could send a message without identifying himself.

"Some people are too afraid to report anomalies in cases where their identities can be traced. It is easier to report graft when you don't have to identify yourself," he said.

He assured the public that all information sent through the hotline would be carefully checked and verified before these were used in a graft complaint.

Eyes and ears

With the system, people can report graft as it occurs like when employees ask for grease money at the Land Registration Office or when an official uses a red-plated car in going to a nightclub.

Nocos said the setup would enable the Office of the Ombudsman to have eyes and ears in places where its personnel are not around. There are some 28 million cellular phone subscribers in the country, who send an average of seven to eight messages a day.

The office has only 17 graft investigators watching over 1.5 million government officials and employees. "Right now, our hands are full. Our manpower is inadequate," Nocos said.

He said the text reporting system was part of the corruption prevention project of the antigraft office to strengthen "strategic and collaborative" work between the "public and private sectors in fighting corruption."

Apart from putting up text hotlines, the Ombudsman will set up a "database-driven and interactive website" to "inform and interact with the public" and to prepare "training videos on corruption and awareness prevention."

EU grant

The European Union has earmarked P197.2 million for the corruption prevention project. The amount is part of the European Union's P383.5-million grant to improve governance and to fight corruption in the country.

The government and an EU delegation signed a memorandum of agreement on the three-year program called "Improving Governance to Reduce Poverty" on Aug. 10.

Access to justice

In a statement, Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo lauded the program, which has two subprojects—access to justice for the poor and corruption prevention.

The access to justice project will be implemented in 30 barangays in each of the 100 targeted poor municipalities. It will be implemented by the Supreme Court and municipal courts, the Philippine National Police, the Department of Justice and the Department of Interior and Local Government, among other agencies.

Training of investigators

The corruption prevention project will also involve the training of investigators belonging to the Office of the Ombudsman and civil society groups.

A total of 1,200 managers in government agencies will be trained in identifying risk factors for corruption and how to tackle them, while 800 members of civil society groups will get training on procurement monitoring and participatory auditing.

Philippine Philharmonic wows the Inquirer

From page A1

"We chose Beethoven No. 8 because it is one of the more cheerful works of Beethoven," said Castillo. "This piece, which is quite joyful and has a lot of playfulness, was written by a man who was in the dark and practically devoid of hearing."

"But as you can see," Castillo continued after the orchestra played a section from the first movement, "even in his deafness, he had not lost his sense of humor."

About 150 editorial and business staffmembers of the Inquirer left their computers and adding machines for about an hour to listen to Beethoven and Mozart.

Encore

After the rousing finale, the Inquirer staffers asked for an encore and the PPO obliged with a movement from Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nacht Musik" ("A Little Night Music").

Inquirer publisher Isagani Yambot thanked the Cultural Center of the Philippines through its PR director, Irene Rada, for "bringing the PPO to the asphalt jungles of Makati"—the way Fitzcarraldo brought opera and the music of Enrico Caruso to the wilds of the Amazon. (The project of Fitzcarraldo—actually Brian Sweeney Fitzgerald, an Irish businessman—was told recently in an award-winning movie directed by Werner Herzog.)

Yambot said the PPO's performance provided the officers and employees of the paper with a welcome pause.

Soothes savage breast

Quoting Princess Almeria of Granada who said in William Congreve's "The Mourning Bride" that "music has charms to soothe a savage breast," Yambot said music also had charms to soothe the frayed nerves of harassed journalists working constantly under deadline pressure.

"This concert comes at an auspicious time. It could be considered a musical celebration of the conclusion of a generous collective bargaining agreement between the Inquirer union and the management," he said.

Quoting Walter Pater, who said that "all art aspires to the condition of music, " Yambot said, "I would go further and say that all music aspires to the condition of the Eternal, the Infinite."

He said that one of the strongest arguments for the existence of God is Bach's Concerto for 2 Violins in D Minor or any of the Brandenburg Concertos.

Rada said the serenade was CCP's way of thanking the Inquirer for its continuing coverage of PPO events.

"This is also our way of introducing the new PPO music director, Eugene Castillo, as we observe CCP's 35th anniversary," she said.

Castillo said the orchestra was reaching out to all sectors to give them an experience of a concert in a "demystified way."

"To get support from everyone, the orchestra should be doing things beyond the walls of the Cultural Center," he said. "I have plans for the PPO to perform in medical missions, do annual concerts for peace in Mindanao and a chamber series for young people of college and post-college age."

Rush-hour concert

Castillo said he also had ideas for rush-hour concerts for those stuck in traffic. "I will go ahead to show that the orchestra is not just for the elite. It is for the general public, " he said.

Castillo, who opens the new season of the PPO on Sept. 10, replaced Italian conductor Ruggero Barbieri who served as the orchestra's music director for eight years.

Lee Kuan Yew son takes over; Goh Chok Tong goes

From page A1

some 1,400 guests.

He replaced Goh Chok Tong, 63, who stepped down after 14 years in power and was appointed senior minister, second in rank only to the prime minister in line with Singapore's tradition of orderly succession and continuity.

The elder Lee, who will turn 81 next month, was moved from senior minister to a primarily advisory role in the Cabinet with the newly created title minister mentor, but is still ranked third in official protocol.

Lee proudly shook his son's hand on a red-carpeted stage after receiving his appointment papers from President S.R. Nathan.

In an opening address before the oath-taking, Nathan underscored the importance of Singapore's tradition of orderly political self-renewal, but told the new Cabinet to listen to the aspirations of a new generation.

"The political changeover also marks a generational change," Nathan said.

"Mr. Lee Hsien Loong now leads the post-independence generation who have grown up amidst peace, comfort and growing prosperity."

"Mr. Lee and his government must engage the young on external and domestic issues which affect their future, and update policies to reflect the aspirations of a younger generation of Singaporeans and adapt their style to stay in tune with the times," he added.

The evening ceremony, carried on live television, was held before an audience that included a slew of ordinary Singaporeans such as taxi drivers, hawkers and a 14-year-old high school student alongside the usual dignitaries.

The broad invitation list was drawn up at the younger Lee's request "to be as inclusive as possible," The Straits Times newspaper reported Thursday.

Cambridge, Harvard education

The Cambridge- and Harvard-educated Lee is often seen and described as lacking the common touch, in contrast to the politician he replaced, Goh Chok Tong, who had been in office since 1990.

The elder Lee, who led Singapore for a quarter of a century from independence in 1965, praised Goh, saying he had forged stronger ties abroad, boosted the economy, and left the country "in good shape."

Goh "has added to what my generation built," creating "more opportunities for our people in so many fields," the elder Lee said in a personal statement printed on the front page of The Straits Times, a paper that has close ties with the government.

The new leader appears to have been groomed for top office since he was young, swapping a military career for public office with the long-ruling People's Action Party in the mid-1980s.

Since then he has held a variety of ministerial positions, including his roles as one of Goh's two deputies and also finance minister, a portfolio that he was expected to retain after Thursday's handover.

Not dynastic succession

Goh has said the younger Lee's rise to the top has the appearance of a dynastic succession but insists that it's not, describing him as the best suited person for the job and Lee family members as "exceptional."

The younger Lee's wife, Ho Ching, runs the government's powerful investment arm, Temasek Holdings, while his brother, Hsien Yang, heads Singapore Telecommunications, the country's largest company.

The handover ceremony was held at the president's official residence, known as the Istana, which also saw the swearing-in of the new leader's Cabinet.

A DYNASTIC successor one among "exceptional" members of the family of Singapore's founding prime minister Lee Kuan Yew (at right), Lee Hsien Loong (center), takes over the reins of power from Goh Chok Tong who will remain in the Cabinet as senior minister. It was unclear why Goh had to go in a country where its leaders are unelected.

AP FILE PHOTOS

Economic priorities

Among Lee's priorities as prime minister will be economic restructuring at home to meet the rising challenge from China and India, and mending fences with Beijing after his recent visit to Taiwan infuriated mainland leaders.

Lee is also likely to try to craft solutions to the steep drop in Singapore's birth rate, which last year hit a record low.

In frank comments in his recent valedictory address, Goh said Lee and his team "will face tougher challenges ahead. The world has become more uncertain." Goh also remains in the Cabinet as a senior minister.

PM's powerful wife

The wife of Singapore's new prime minister is a powerful but publicity-shy business executive who controls a multibillion-dollar global investment portfolio.

The 51-year-old Ho is the executive director and chief executive officer of Singapore's hugely profitable state investment arm Temasek Holdings.

She was ranked this month as No. 18 in Fortune Magazine's list of Asia's 25 most powerful people in business, along with the likes of Sony's Noboyuki Idei, Toyota Motors' Fujio Cho and Hong Kong tycoon Li Ka-Shing.

Established in 1974, Temasek manages a diversified portfolio, including investments in India, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia and the United States. Temasek-linked entities include the city-state's best-known companies—Singapore Airlines, Singapore Telecommunications, DBS Bank, Neptune Orient Lines and Keppel Corp.

Eyebrows were raised when Ho was appointed to Temasek in May 2002 because her husband was—and will remain—finance minister, which puts him in a supervisory role over Temasek.

No conflict of interest

But the mother of four has dismissed suggestions of potential conflicts of interest.

"The issue of conflict does not arise because there are no vested interests. Our goal is to do what makes sense for Singapore," she said in a rare interview with the Straits Times newspaper after her appointment. *AFP/AP*

Post admits playing up pro-Iraq war reports

From page A1

'helped sell the story,'" Kurtz quoted Pincus as recalling.

Pincus said that without Woodward, the report "would have had a tough time getting into the paper." But even so, said Kurtz, the report was run on Page A17.

"We did our job but we didn't do enough, and I blame myself mightily for not pushing harder," Woodward said. "We should have warned readers we had information that the basis for this was shakier" than many believed.

In the story, which ran for more than 3,000 words for Thursday's edition of the Post, Kurtz wrote: "The result was coverage that, despite flashes of groundbreaking reporting, in hindsight looks strikingly one-sided at times."

Lack of skepticism

A number of critics have faulted the American news media for not being more skeptical about the Bush administration's claims before the beginning of the war in March 2003.

In the year and a half since Saddam was toppled, US troops have yet to discover any WMD.

In a study published in March by the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland, researchers wrote, "Many stories stenographically reported the incumbent administration's perspectives on WMD, giving too little critical examination of the way officials framed the events, issues, threats and policy options."

In May, The New York Times criticized its own reporting on Iraq, saying it found "a number of instances of coverage that was not as rigorous as it should have been" and acknowledging that it sometimes "fell for misinformation" from exiled Iraqi sources.

Ignoring the questions

"We were so focused on trying to figure out what the administration was doing that we were not giving the same play to people who said it wouldn't be a good idea to go to war and were questioning the administration's rationale," executive editor Leonard Downie Jr. said.

He said that across the United States, "the voices raising questions about the war were lonely ones."

"We didn't pay enough attention to the minority," he added.

Kurtz wrote that an examination of the Post's coverage and interviews with more than a dozen of the editors and reporters involved showed that the newspaper did run a number of pieces challenging the White House—but rarely on the front page.

Greater prominence

"Some reporters who were lobbying for greater prominence for stories that questioned the administration's evidence complained to senior editors who, in the view of those reporters, were unenthusiastic about such pieces," he said.

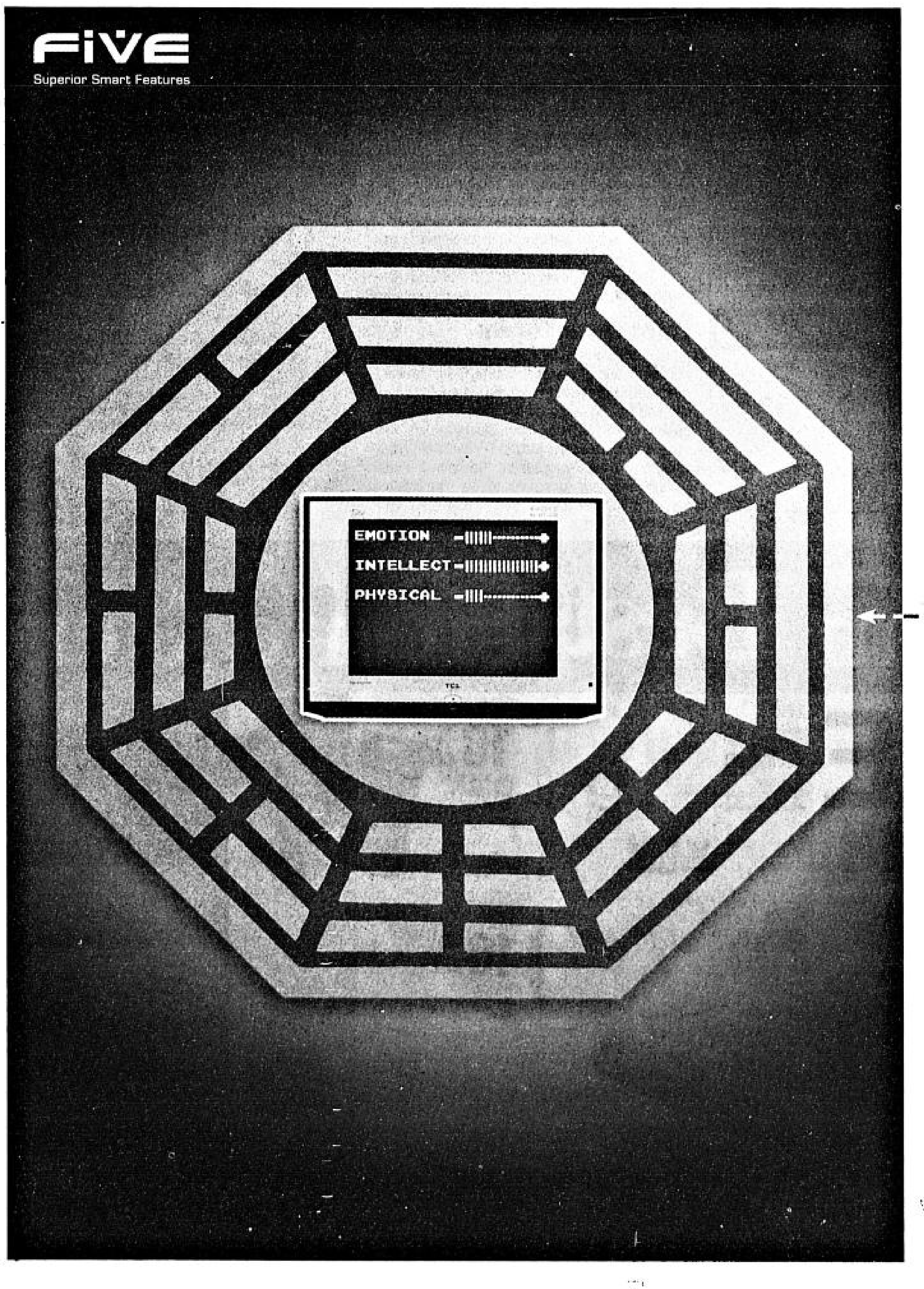
Kurtz said that when national security reporter Dana Priest addressed a group of intelligence officers, she was "peppered" with questions: "Why didn't the Post do a more aggressive job? Why didn't the Post ask more questions? Why didn't the Post dog harder?"

Not on Page 1

Pentagon correspondent Thomas Ricks told Kurtz that "there was an attitude among editors: Look, we're going to war, why do we even worry about all this contrary stuff?"

Ricks said the Post was "not front-paging stuff."

"Administration assertions were on the front page," he said. "Things that challenged the administration were on A18 on Sunday or A24 on Monday." *AP*



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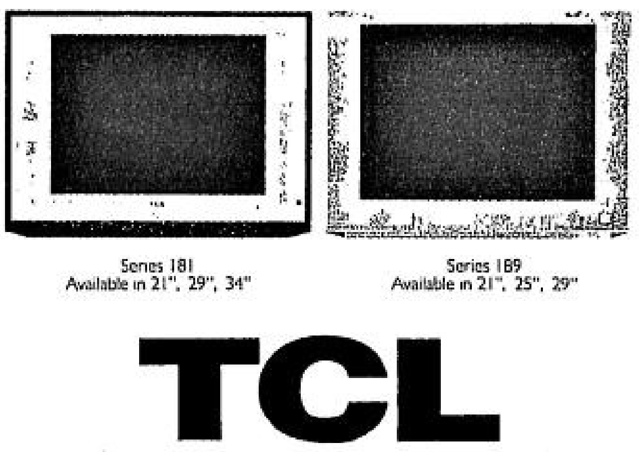

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Mall heir's wife: Fight not over; plans appeal

SWAT patrols 24-hr stores

By Tina Santos

MEMBERS of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team and mobile patrol units have been deployed to watch over different Metro Manila convenience stores, following the spate of robberies on stores open for 24 hours.

National Capital Region Police Office Director Ricardo de Leon also advised the units to convert the stores as regular standby points for the police.

At least seven robberies have taken place in several 7-11 store branches since January.

By Margaux C. Ortiz

BATTERED all over again.

This was how Melissa Mercado-Martel felt after the Department of Justice dropped the frustrated parricide charge she filed against her husband, Harrison Plaza mall heir Robert "Roby" Puyat-Martel.

"Melissa felt very upset and very angry at the resolution," said her lawyer Lourdes Cruz-Matters, stressing that Senior State Prosecutor Roberto Lao's dismissal of the criminal complaint was "a total outrage not only for Melissa but for all battered and abused women."

In her complaint, Melissa said Roby beat her up and shot her in the stomach inside their condominium unit at the Ritz Towers in Makati on Aug. 26, 2003.

But Matters said Melissa had retained her confidence in the system, and would be filing an appeal addressed to Chief Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño within 10 days.

Matters said Lao had acted beyond the scope of his authority, dismissing the criminal complaint "based on the incredible statements of Roby and his two bodyguards that the shooting was an accident."

Lao had completely ignored the statements, medical records and photos that "overwhelmingly" prove that Melissa could not have been the aggressor and inflicted the gunshot wound on herself, Matters said.

The lawyer said medical records and photos showed that Melissa "was too badly beaten, bruised and wounded prior to being shot by Roby to even put up a fight."

Matters also added that the bodyguards, whom Lao considered as disinterested witnesses, were not credible because they did not actually witness the shooting.

"Melissa will continue to fight to see that justice is served and that Roby go to jail," she said.

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METROBRIEFS

Secret fire marshals

NEGLIGENT owners of fire-prone buildings in Makati City, beware. The Makati Fire Department has deployed secret fire marshals to go after building administrators and owners who disregard requirements of the Fire Code of the Philippines, otherwise known as Presidential Decree 1185. MFD head Supt. Arsenio Tabajonda said the deployment aims to intensify the inspection of hotels, shopping malls, school buildings and other establishments to ensure that the buildings are safe from fires. Tabajonda said Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay issued the order following big fires that claimed the lives of hundreds of shoppers in India and Paraguay. *Margaux Ortiz*

Sidewalk-clearing venture

VALENZUELA City residents can look forward to a wider MacArthur Highway. A clearing operation is now ongoing along the busy highway to remove all sidewalk obstructions. The operation, which will last for two weeks, was initiated by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and coordinated with the city government. City Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian said yesterday structures encroaching on the sidewalks—including illegal sidewalk vendors—would be removed. The sidewalk clearing will also cover stretches of MacArthur Highway in the cities of Malabon and Caloocan, MMDA general manager Robert Nacianceno said. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Death for rape

A TRICYCLE driver was yesterday meted the death penalty for raping his neighbor twice five years ago. Court records showed that the convict, Jesus Vitug Jr., 29, raped a mentally retarded woman in March and in April in 1999 inside the toilet of the house which the family's victim rented in Tondo. Vitug was nabbed in Quiapo in December 2001. *Tarra Quismundo*

Kilosbayan forum

A FORUM featuring Prof. Randy David and Ms Marites Vitug, editor of Newsbreak, will be held this afternoon at the Philippine Christian University auditorium, according to Kilosbayan President Jovito R. Salonga. Prof. David will discuss "The Real State of the Nation—The Other View," while Ms. Vitug will speak on "Comelec's Mega Racket." An open forum will follow. The public is invited to the free forum.

LPG EXPLOSION ERIK ARAZAS

A firefighter retrieves the LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) tank that allegedly exploded Thursday morning inside a house in Singalong, Manila. Police said five members of a family living in the house and a neighbor suffered burns and injuries due to the blast. They were taken to a hospital for treatment. Fire authorities are still investigating the cause of the explosion.

Medals for brave cops

By Leila B. Salaverria

MANILA'S Finest have one more reason to wear their police uniforms proudly.

Top officials of several police agencies yesterday awarded medals to Special Weapons and Tactics team members and policemen from the Binondo and Sta. Cruz police stations who figured in a two-hour gun battle with suspected robbers on Monday.

Leading the awardees were PO3 Raul Baldomar and PO3 Robert Zapata, who were wounded in the shootout that left two suspects dead.

The other awardees were WPD-SWAT head Chief Insp. Mario Pereyra, Sta. Cruz police station official Sr. Insp. Rodolfo Jamoralin, PO3 Mike Ongpauco, PO1 Christopher David, PO1 John David, PO1 Edchelle Ayon and PO1 Ariel Iringan.

Among the guests were Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes, National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane, and WPD officer-in-charge Sr. Supt. Juanito de Guzman.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3132 Series of 2004

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On top of 0% promotions, BPI Express Credit cardholders earn extra 100 Frequent User Points when they buy from Abenson. With additional frequent user points, customers can now redeem items of higher value. These promotions are exclusive to Abenson when cardholders use their BPI Credit cards. Hurry! You only have the last few days to avail of the promo!

P&G AND ABENSON PARTNER THIS RAINY SEASON

This rainy season, washing machine shoppers can look forward to the best laundry offers only from Abenson! The appliance retail giant partnered with leading manufacturing multinational company Procter & Gamble to give shoppers complete solutions for the home. "We want people who shop at Abenson to feel that they get good quality service and high value for money. We want them to shop from us and fully appreciate the product they bought. This is why we partnered with P&G. We feel customers benefit from seeing actual product demonstration, sample products that complement the appliance we sell", says Marilette Suarez, Abenson's Marketing Manager.

With the objective of giving customers a total laundry solution, Abenson has a three-tier washing machine promotion! First, customers get 800g of Ariel Ultramatic free for every purchase of any washing machine model.. Second, customers can get a flat iron for only P8.00 when they buy qualified washing machine models. Third, customers can claim a free laundry hamper from selected Abenson stores when they buy 2 packs of Ariel UltraMatic 800g from a WalterMart Supermarket.

"Overall customers enjoy big value savings. Summing up the 3 promotions, customers enjoy over P500 added value to their purchase. Couple this with the wide assortment of trusted brands we showcase in store, customers get winning product offers", Marilette further explains.

For P&G, this promotion allows new washing machine owners to try the new Ariel Ultramatic. "It is a product we are confident the new washing machine owners will love. Ariel Ultramatic is especially designed to work in washing machines". says Aisa Yap, P&G Brand PR Manager. Furthermore, tying up with Abenson makes sense for P&G as both companies share the same thrust. As Abenson aims to give customers value for money, P&G aims to help customers save money. "Ariel's unique formulation has the extra power of hand-scrub in addition to the power of bar and bleach that cleans tough stains in the washing machine. The result is clean laundry that is better than what you would get if you used powder and bar combined," adds Yap.

In selected Abenson stores, Ariel and Abenson will conduct product demonstrations. Customers will be able to experience the cleaning power of Ariel Ultramatic using the washing machines showcased. This is another point of differentiation for Abenson as a result of its partnership with P&G.

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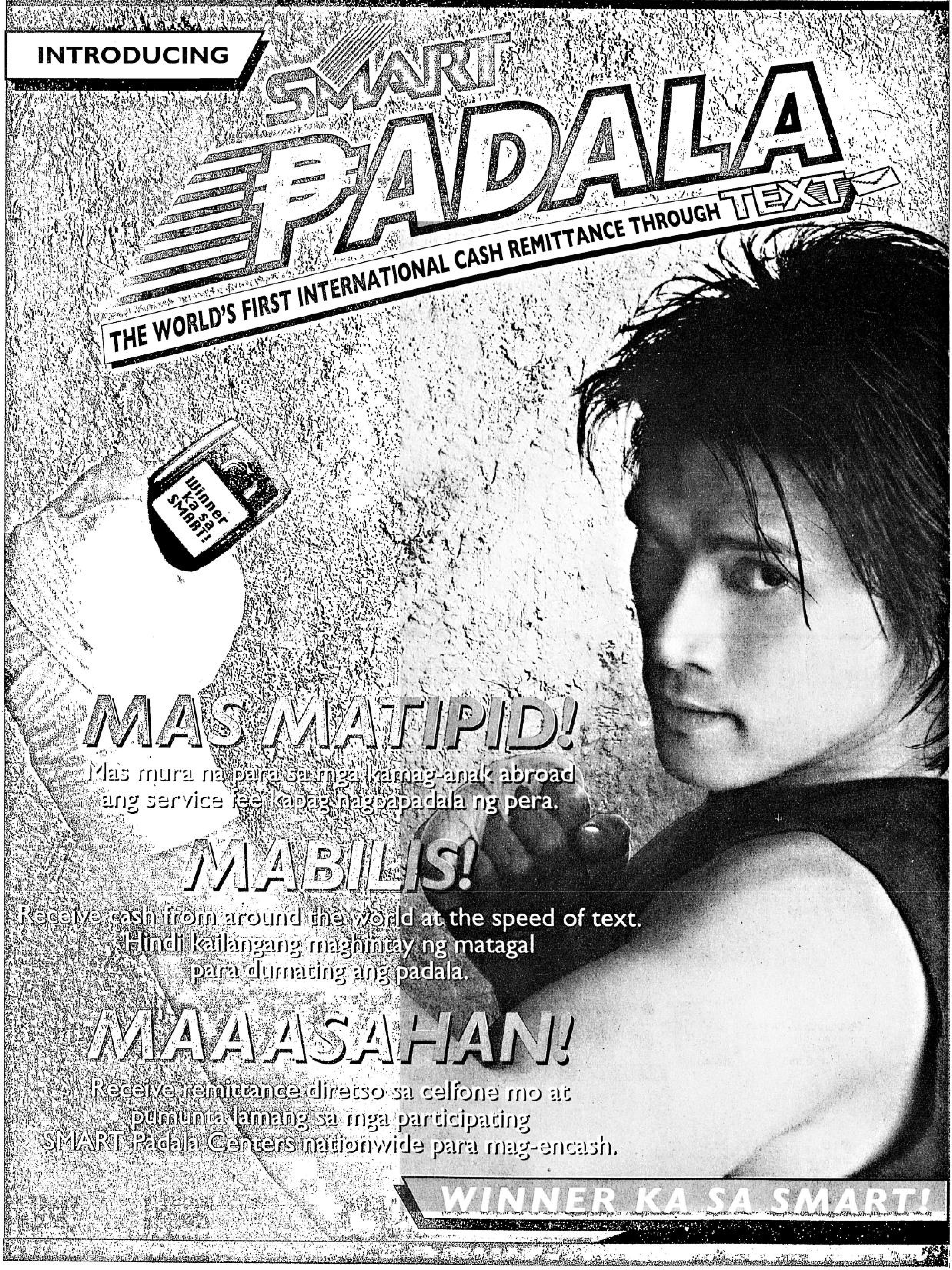

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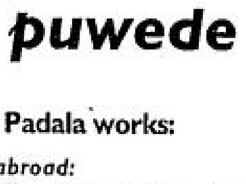

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All 16 Olympians to 'carry' RP flag

FIGUEROA

Jittery Figueroa slumps to 56th in prelims

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.
News Editor

ATHENS—Middleweight boxer Christopher Camat may be carrying the flag, but everyone else in the 16-man Philippine crew will be standard bearers as well when the Filipinos join the parade of athletes in the opening ceremonies of the 28th Olympic Games here on Friday.

The Games is expected to start with a spectacular opening ceremonies beginning at 8:45 p.m. (1:45 a.m. Saturday in Manila) at the 72,000-seat Olympic Stadium and expected to finish well past midnight.

The competitions, however, have begun informally in various venues with female archer Jasmine Figueroa starting off on a sour note in the ranking round for the women's individual event.

Overcome by rookie jitters, Figueroa lost her focus after a good start and dropped near the bottom of the rankings—56th in a field of 64.

Camat kept the distinction of leading the Filipinos in the parade following doubts if he should do so since he might be seeing action the next day.

Filipino officials, led by chef de mission Steve Hontiveros, had thought of replacing Camat so he would be rested for his Olympic debut on Saturday, but boxing president Manny Lopez gave the go signal since it was not sure if he would have a fight Saturday.

The boxing draw will be held Friday at the Olympic boxing hall with the middleweights kicking off action on Saturday.

In Thursday's team meeting at the Philippine headquarters of the Olympic Village, Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit said Camat will not be the only one carrying the flag when the athletes parade at the opening ceremonies.

"Everyone of you is our country's flag-bearer, not just Camat," Dayrit reminded the athletes. "All of you carry the country's flag in your mind, in your hearts and in your uniforms."

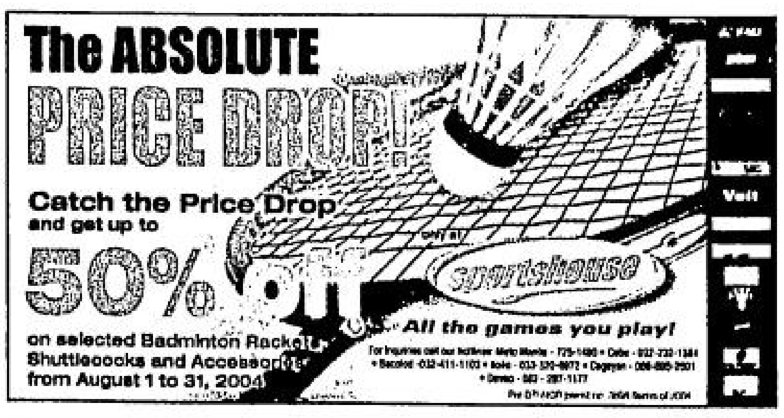
Athletes seeing action on Saturday— swimmers Miguel Mendoza, Miguel Molina and Raphael Matthew Chua—are not expected to join the parade.

Mendoza will swim in the men's 400 meter freestyle, Molina in the men's 400-meter individual medley and Chua in the men's 100-meter breaststroke.

An estimated four billion viewers are expected to watch the opening ceremonies worldwide in one of the biggest live television audiences in any sporting event.

Most of the Games' 10,500 athletes are expected to join the parade, which will be staged under the tightest security ever for any

ALL / A27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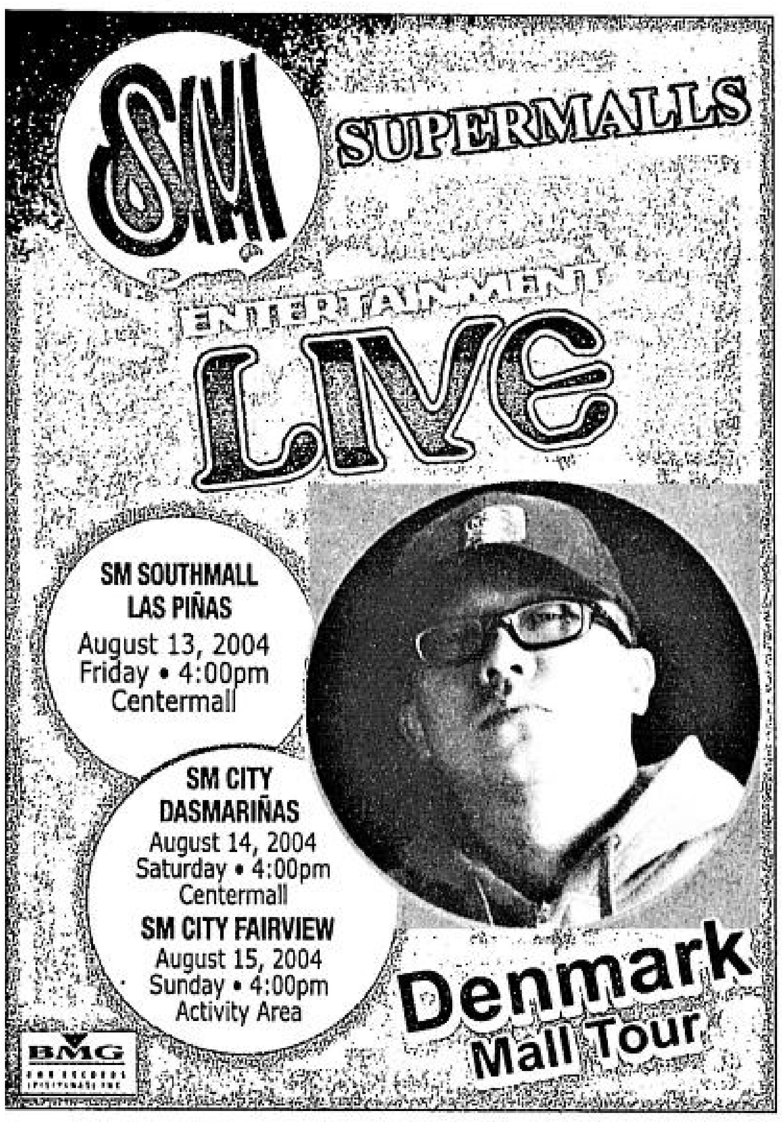
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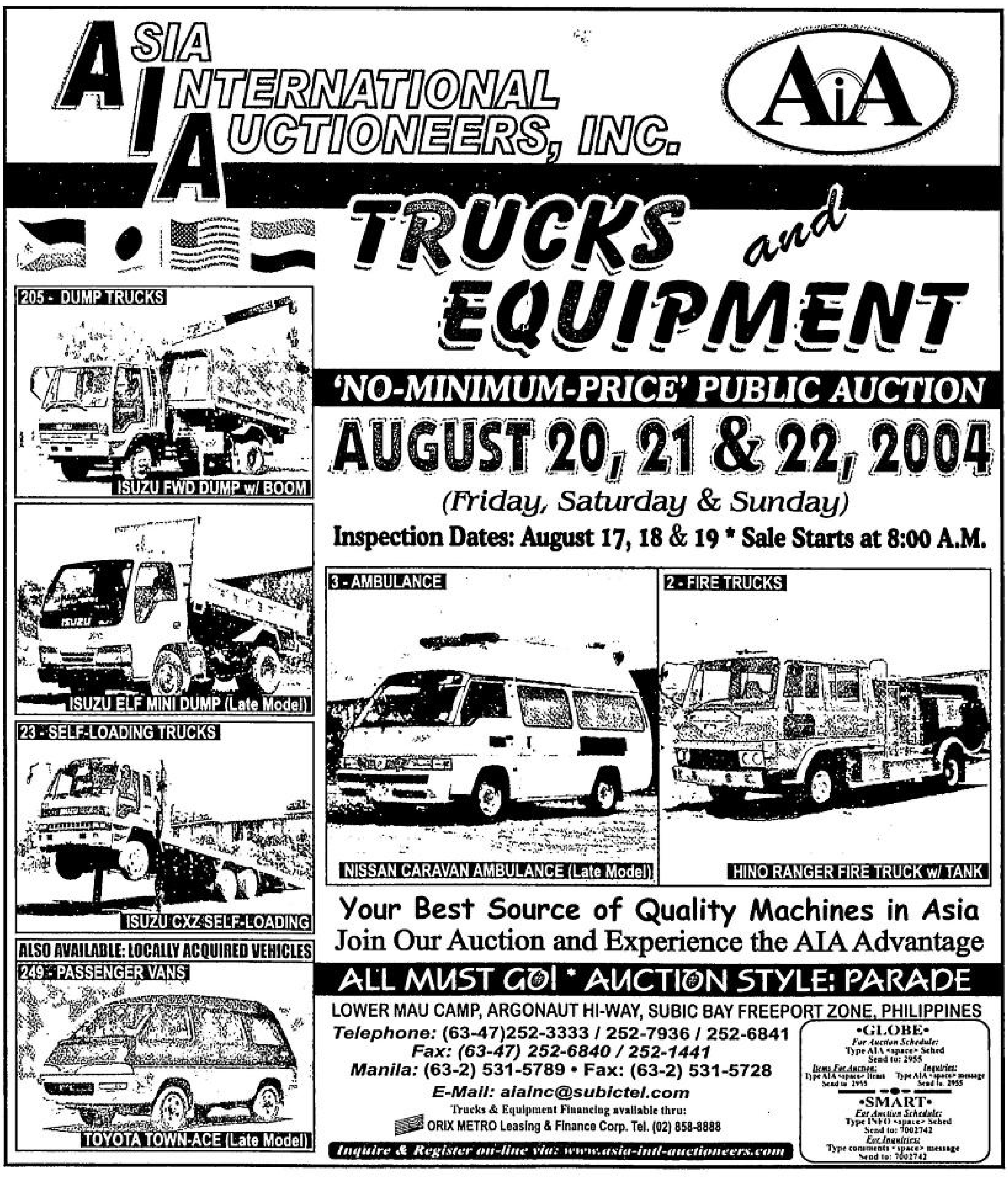
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By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.

BRAZILIAN swimmers apply sunblock to each other during training. REUTERS

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It can even be priceless, and therefore cannot be acquired even by the millions today of Bill Gates or Henry Ford's heirs, as in a Van Gogh painting, a Paganini-owned Stradivarius, a Beatle tune like "Mother Nature's Son."

It's more than a treasure, a heritage, that anyone among the 16 Filipinos winning a gold medal in Athens will not just pocket at least P8 million—but more. The honor that goes with it will be something approximating the significance of Erap's ascent to the presidency if seen on the basis of a college dropout achieving the astonishing feat of grabbing the highest post in the land.

The P8 million or so that goes to the gold medal winner in Athens is more than enough to buy one a house and lot at a posh village in Quezon City, if not a condo unit in Makati. It's also more than enough to start a business not of the underground type; it can start, say a dealership of Toyota spare parts, or a Grappa's franchise maybe, if not a Cinnabon outlet in a Shell station along the North Luzon Expressway.

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Ex-Warriors starters in All-Star duel

By June Navarro

SOUTH: Yap

NORTH: Artadi

CEBU CITY—They used to watch the PBA All-Star Game while playing for the same collegiate team. Now, they are in the limelight as attractions in the annual contest between the best players of the pro cage league.

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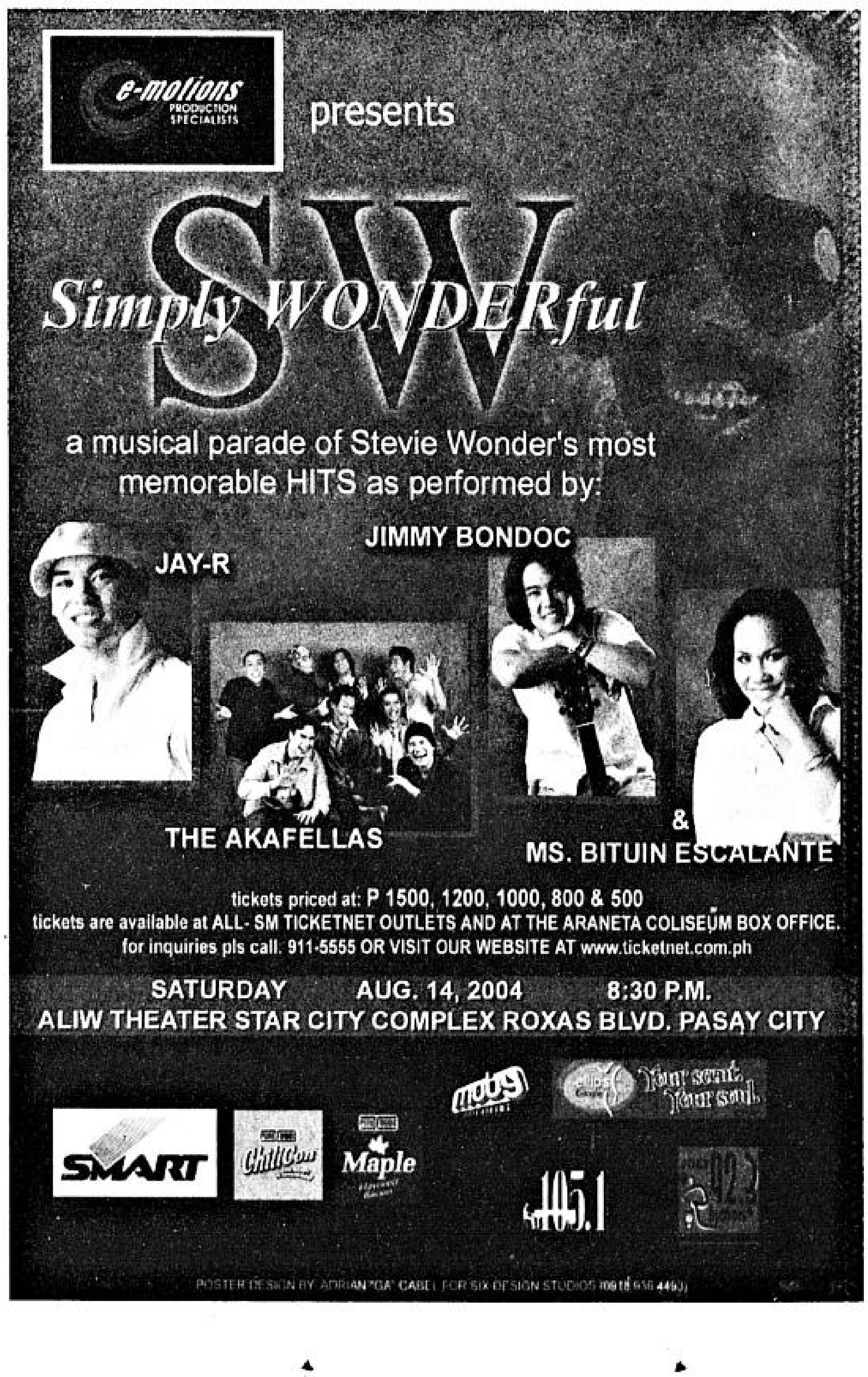

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Knights, Altas vie for lead

GAMES TODAY
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11:30 a.m.—Mapua vs SSC (Jrs)
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*4 p.m.—Perpetual vs Letran (Srs)
6 p.m.—Perpetual vs Letran (Jrs)
**Live on Studio 23*

WHAT could be a preview of this year's championship fight is up today when Letran and University of Perpetual Help fight for the lead in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Rizal Coliseum.

Tied at 6-3, the defending champion Knights and the Altas collide at 4 p.m. with Letran also gunning for a third straight win and Perpetual hoping to avoid a third straight loss.

San Sebastian also guns for a share of top spot when they clash with Mapua earlier at 2 p.m.

After posting a six-game winning streak, the Altas bowed to the San Beda Lions and the PCU Dolphins at the start of the second round.

Altas guard Noy Javier and Letran captain Ronjay Enrile, the league's top two shooting guards, had a heated first-round encounter, which led to Enrile's one-game suspension for allegedly spitting at Javier. Perpetual won the match, 71-68.

Jasmine W. Payo

Warriors clip Eagles' wings

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT took an untested roster to topple the league leader.

The University of the East Warriors showed they're for real as they dealt the Ateneo Blue Eagles their first loss of the season, 64-59, at the start of the second round of the 67th UAAP senior basketball tournament yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

"Everybody played well. I'm proud of my players, and our coaching staff really prepared. I told the boys that we should have a good start. But even in the last play, we were worried about (LA) Tenorio," said coach Dindo Pumaren.

In the other senior contest, University of the Philippines survived a late rally, sinking University of Santo Tomas, 79-74.

Ateneo remained on top with a 7-1 slate, while UE moved up to third at 5-3 behind FEU's 5-2 mark. UST evened up its slate at 4-4, while UP stood at 2-6.

The Warriors, fresh off its conquest of La Salle last week, led by as much as 12 points, 47-35, and refused to panic when the Eagles threatened at 59-61 in the dying seconds.

UP took control of the game until the final four minutes when UST launched a rally that included a three-pointer from Danny Pribhdas and cut the lead to 72-68.

In junior play, Hector Badua nailed a buzzer-beating jumper as the Tiger Cubs nipped the Junior Fighting Maroons in overtime, 69-68, to extend their winning streak to seven. UP kept solo second at 5-2.

ATENEO'S Paolo Bugia reaches in for the rebound off Paolo Hubalde of UE. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

The scores:

Second Game (Srs)

UP 79—David 18, Almeda 16, Cervantes 12, Santos 9, Agbayani 8, Cruz 4, Ferrer 4, Quebral 3, Ibañes 3, Bienvenida 2, Buyco 0, Epres 0.

UST 74—Vizcarra 19, Luanzon 15, De Guzman 10, Duncil 6, Pribhdas 5, Evangelista 4, Cortez 4, Manching 2, Espiritu 2, Dizon 2, Sumalinog 0.

Quarters: 23-14, 45-30, 52-51, 79-74

Third Game (Srs)

UE 64—Canaleta 19, Arellano 15, Masbang 11, Hubalde 5, Saguindel 5, Dizon 4, Palaganas 3, Labagala 2, Tamayo 0.

ATENEO 59—Bugia 13, Tiu 10, Intal 8, Quimson 7, Escalona 7, Membrere 6, Kramer 4, Del Rosario 4, Barracoso 0, Arao 0, Tenorio 0.

Quarters: 16-12, 35-31, 49-47, 64-59.

Ozamiz five stuns hosts Cardinals

BAGUIO CITY—The Ozamiz Cotta subdued the Baguio Cardinals, 87-80, Wednesday night to kick off their Northern Division swing on a high note in the National Basketball Conference (NBC) finals at the packed University of Baguio gym here.

The Cotta of Ozamiz Mayor Renato Parojinog snapped out of a two-game slump and improved to 4-2 behind the endgame heroics of veteran forward Rollie Basilides and team skipper Egay Echavez.

The Cardinals slid to 3-2 after absorbing their first loss at home in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic, Spring Cooking Oil, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Cebu Ferries, Air Philippines, Supercat, Accel and Molten.

From a 36-37 halftime deficit, Ozamiz went on a 23-7 roll behind Basilides, Echavez and workhorse Larry Rodriguez to post its biggest lead, 59-44.

But the Cardinals clawed back to tie the score at 74 with three minutes to go only to fall into errors in the homestretch.

Ozamiz motors down to Metro Manila today to face Forward Taguig of Mayor Freddie Tinga at the C.P. Tinga Memorial Hall at 6 p.m., while Iloilo Warriors (5-5) try to get back at pacesetting Tribu Sugbu (5-1) at the University of San Agustin gym.

All 16 Olympians . . .

From page A25

Olympiad. The Athens Games is the first Olympiad to be held since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

The initial archery action determined the pairings for the 64-strong field in the tournament proper starting on Sunday.

But it gave the lone Filipino archer here a clear picture of the overwhelming odds she will have to face in the days ahead.

Figueroa, with 600 points over 72 arrows—well below her average, will face former world champion Natalia Valeeva of Italy in the elimination rounds starting on Sunday at the ancient Panathinaiko Stadium here.

Valeeva, the world champion in 1995, qualified No. 9 with 650 points.

The South Korean domination showed in Thursday's action. The three South Korean entries finished 1-2-3 in the ranking round with Park Sung Hyun topping it with 682 points.

In what her coach described as a "rookie problem," the 18-year old Figueroa was in the top 15 after the first 18 arrows, but she started to lose her concentration when the wind started blowing hard across the Dekila archery field near the Olympic Village.

"I had a good start, but I lost my focus. I was hitting my arrows all over. When the wind started, I could not recover," said Figueroa.

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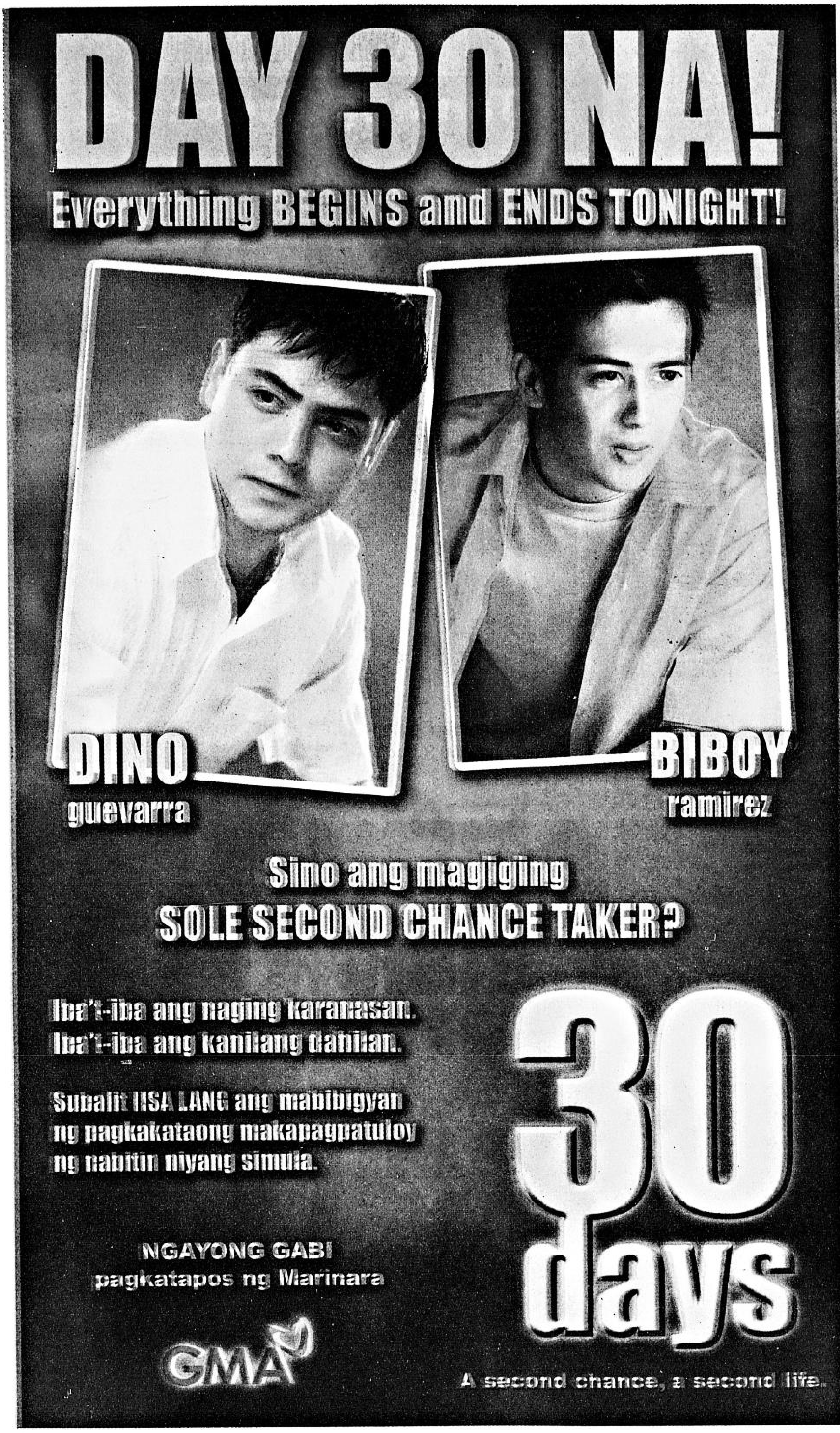
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Politics in sports

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

"VERY soon; the Philippine Olympic Committee will be like Congress where there is a power struggle," said former POC president Julian Malonso recently.

A staunch defender of the Olympic movement, Malonso, a retired colonel, said the entry into sports of former Congressman Jose Cojuangco and the appointment of the First Gentleman as chef de mission to the Manila Southeast Asian Games in 2005 will complicate matters in the POC.

"The First Gentleman is a controversial person in the political field which might affect the POC," said the straight-talking Malonso, who never fails to amaze people with his physical and mental energy even though he is already 81 years old. "The chef de mission is usually the vice president of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

"Another politician also entered sports in the person of Rep. Mat Defensor as president of the chess federation.

"There are other politicians in the POC like Rep. Monico Puentevella. The POC will be a carnival of politicians."

Our leaders have not learned from the past, added Malonso, who is very vocal against government intervention in amateur sports.

In 1962, the late President Diosdado Macapagal refused to grant entry visas to the players and officials of the Yugoslavian team participating in the 4th World Basketball Championship which the Philippines was hosting. As a result, the world championship was canceled, the country was suspended and fined $2,000 by the International Basketball Federation (Fiba), forcing then Basketball Association of the Philippines president Sen. Ambrosio Padilla and BAP secretary general Dionisio "Chito" Calvo to make a hasty trip to the Fiba headquarters in Munich in a bid to salvage the world cagefest. But the best they could get from the sport's ruling body was an authorization to stage an invitational tournament.

Then President Ferdinand Marcos abolished the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation by a presidential decree and created the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, appointing his favorite nephew, Michael Keon, as director of Project: Gintong Alay. Keon later on became the president of the POC.

Marcos also appointed his cronies as project directors of the different sports associations and supported the late PCSO general manager Nereo Andolong, who also became a POC president and head of several national sports associations, which was a violation of the rules.

Politicians Jose Sering and Isidro Rodriguez converted the interscholastic meets like a political competition while Gonzalo Puyat headed the BAP longer than Marcos, the longest-serving president of the Philippines.

President Corazon Aquino approved the creation of the Philippine Sports Commission, replacing the Department of Youth and Sports Development, and appointed her employee in their family corporation as the PSC chair.

The daughter of President Fidel Ramos served as the POC president while the First Lady became president of the badminton association. Although they are qualified, Malonso said, it smacks of nepotism. Presidential son-in-law Freddie Jalasco also became president of the BAP.

Deposed President Joseph Estrada appointed his friends to the POC, while President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed as chair of PSC Eric Buhain, son-in-law of Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Pagulayan, Django bow out of US pool

NEWLY crowned World Pool champion Alex Pagulayan and the Philippines' Francisco "Django" Bustamante bowed out of the eight-man $50,000 winner-take-all showdown of the 14th annual International Challenge of Champions at the Mohegan Sun Casino in Connecticut Wednesday.

Bustamante, the tournament's defending champion, yielded to Japan's Hiroshi Takenaka, 5-7, while the Canadian-Filipino Pagulayan lost to 2001 World Pool champ Mika Immonen of Finland, 6-7.

Other matches in the tournament that offers $50,000 to the champion saw 2003 world titleholder Thorsten Hohmann and Thomas Engert, both from Germany, beat Australian Phil Reilly, 7-3, and American Johnny Archer, 7-5, respectively. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

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NISSAN

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Audit team probes PGAP fund mess

By Musong R. Castillo

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Committee chair Jun Bustamante came to this conclusion after he and his seven-man panel rejected most of Negrido's explanations and expense declarations as "unacceptable" after a four-hour meeting at Club Intramuros.

Tony Arevalo, the association's treasurer who has been feuding with Negrido, was also asked to submit receipts for various collections and the financial statement of the association when the committee reconvenes on Tuesday.

"I want this to be a fair and thorough investigation," said Bustamante, a mild-mannered teaching pro credited with the revival of the PGAP in the late 1990s.

Bustamante said that only one of Arevalo's complaints against Negrido was taken up, and the committee, among others, found a receipt for the use of golf carts in a qualifying event amounting to P4,000 which Negrido later on admitted he never used.

Payments to personnel of that qualifying event in Davao had also been padded, according to Bustamante.

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Woods heads PGA hopefuls

KOHLER, Wisconsin— Just about anything is possible at this week's US PGA Championship, the last of the year's four majors and the one that has produced more than its fair share of surprise winners in the past.

WOODS reaches for a ball thrown to him by his caddie at the driving range. AP

World number one Tiger Woods, US Masters champion Phil Mickelson, 1998 winner Vijay Singh and three-time major champion Ernie Els head the list of obvious contenders for the prestigious Wanamaker Trophy.

However, based on recent history in major championships and the deepening quality of players in the modern game, virtually anyone in the 156-strong field has a chance of winning.

Americans Shaun Micheel and Rich Beem, the last two US PGA champions, were ranked well outside the world's top 50 when they upset the odds.

Micheel was ranked 169th at Oak Hill last year when he became the seventh player to clinch the tournament at the first attempt, sealing his shock victory with a brilliant seven-iron approach to two inches at the last.

Twelve months earlier, Beem was the world number 73 and playing in only his fourth major tournament when he held off a charging Woods in the final round at Hazeltine National.

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American outsider Todd Hamilton continued the trend for surprise victories at last month's British Open and became the seventh first-time winner in the last eight majors, stretching back to Beem's 2002 victory at Hazeltine.

Reuters

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Red Ribbon football slated

THE RED Ribbon Football Fiesta kicks off in Davao City on Saturday at the Tionko field in the Agro compound.

The under-14 tournament is being organized by the Davao Football Association (DFA). Albert Pingoy, DFA president, said yesterday that the Holy Child School of Davao, Ateneo de Davao University, Zonta Elementary School, SOS Village, Taytayan Development Project, Agro-Industrial Foundation College and Emar Learning Center have confirmed their participation.

As part of opening-day festivities, the DFA is erecting food booths and game stalls at the playing venue. Prizes will be up for grabs in the Saturday event, which officially marks the beginning of the Red Ribbon football season.

Also slated are tournaments in Butuan, Iligan, Bukidnon and Cagayan De Oro. The 11-A-Side tournament will follow a round-robin format. Eligible players must be born on or after Jan. 1, 1991.

The annual event is sanctioned and organized by the Philippine Football Federation in coordination with the Provincial Football Associations, event manager Ed Formoso and Red Ribbon's special projects manager Tito Autor.

SPORTSWATCH

Northwoods gains Fed Golf finals

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San Miguel Beermen SCOOP guests

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Seen having lunch, at separate tables, at the posh Palms Country Club in Alabang last rainy Sunday were couples **Jessica Rodriguez** and **David Bunevacz**, and singer **Samantha** and her husband **Rino Que** with their son **Mark**. Rino proudly pointed out to an acquaintance that Samantha has just recorded a new album.

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2 A CINDERELLA STORY	2 COLLATERAL	2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	6 THE VILLAGE	GUARANTEED SEATS 2 THE VILLAGE 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, 12:00	2 THE WHOLE 10 YARDS
3 COLLATERAL	3 THE VILLAGE	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 COLLATERAL 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	7 CATWOMAN	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 ETERNAL SUNSHINE 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30	3 COLLATERAL
4 GARFIELD	4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	4 I, ROBOT		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 GARFIELD 2:35, 4:20, 6:05, 7:50, 9:35, 11:20	4 PRINCE & ME
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU		GB1 GREENBELT 1 1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 10:40, 12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40 2 THE VILLAGE 11:20, 1:20, 3:35, 5:50, 8:05		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 COLLATERAL 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15	5 GARFIELD

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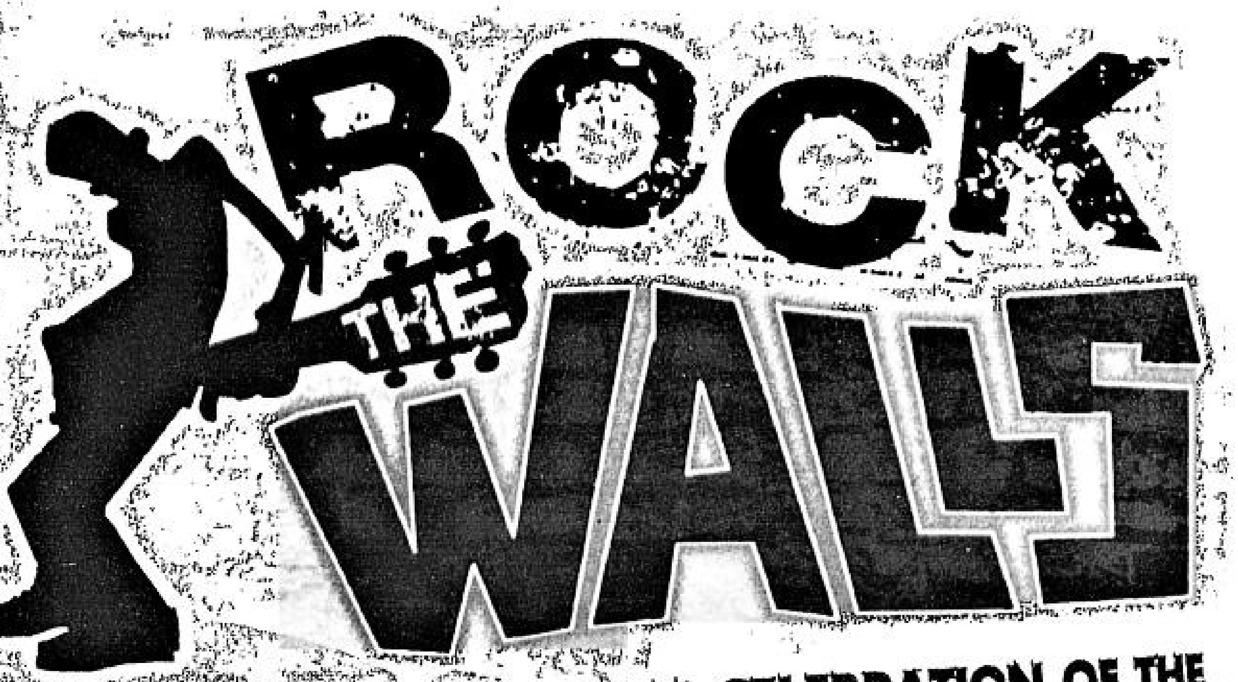

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Hitmakers back from triumphant US tour

VIEWFINDER
Nestor U. Torre

SEPARATELY, **Rico J. Puno, Hajji Alejandro, Nonoy Zuñiga, Marco Sison** and **Rey Valera** have flourishing entertainment careers both here and abroad. Imagine, therefore, the exponential compounding in terms of entertainment value when all five stars perform together in one big concert series.

Filipinos in the United States were the recent recipients of that unusual show biz bonanza when the veteran hitmakers went on a monthlong US performing tour that began in San Francisco, then sequentially hit Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Florida and finally ended in Chicago.

When we met last Monday with Rico, Marco, Hajji and their producer-road manager **Norma Japitana**, they were still glowing from their series of SRO shows in big venues in the US.

Their concert, "The Great Hitmakers," was so well received that, this early, the group has already been scheduled for repeat performances next year. Nothing succeeds like success, especially if it's of the repeat business, *"isa pa nga"* variety!

What made "The Great Hitmakers" such a triumph? Rico, Marco, Hajji and Norma believe that each of the five stars has his own identity and style, and it was the combination of these different entertainment persuasions that clicked so well with the Fil-Am audience.

The fact that the stars were veteran performers was another plus factor, because many of the Fil-Ams in the audience belonged to their "generation," so they empathized with enthusiasm and sometimes even with emotion to their nostalgic numbers.

But the show wasn't all nostalgia, as the entertainers also dished out newer novelty songs like "Mister Suave," which went over well with patrons of all ages.

Another highlight of the show was Rey Valera's new song, "Sa Aking Panahon," which hit Fil-Am listeners where they lived and breathed with its eloquent lyrics about life in the Philippines today.

Rico, Hajji and Marco are stars in their own right, and show biz luminaries are known to have egos as huge as elephants and rhinos, so were there huge territorial tiffs during the whole month they performed together in the States?

Scout's honor, the star singers swore, there weren't. They had a great time together, both on and off-stage. What made them exceptions to show biz's desultory rule?

The veteran entertainers mulled over that question for a spell, then came up with their response: When they were younger, they were competitive to a fault. But, now that they were indeed veterans, they had "nothing more to prove," so they were able to give their egos a long rest, and get along famously.

Good answer! *(To be concluded.)*

'Maala-ala' on radio

TELEVISION'S most honored drama anthology show, "Maalaala Mo Kaya?," now has its counterpart on radio. DZMM airs the radio version weekdays from 2:30 to 3 p.m.

On the radio show, the TV show's host, **Charo Santos-Concio**, reads the letters that listeners have sent her, and gives her advice to the letter-writers after the dramatization of their stories by the same voice talents ABS-CBN uses to dub its telenovelas and chinovelas.

Hoobastank on Aug. 17

THE HOT band Hoobastank performs on Aug. 17 at the Folk Arts Theater. Cleancut rockers Doug, Dan, Markku and Chris have toured with the likes of Linkin Park, Incubus and **Jay-Z**, and guested on TV's "TRL" and "The Howard Stern Show."

Their "The Reason" album has been certified platinum. The band's debut album, "Hoobastank," also went platinum and yielded three hit singles.

Choral workshop

A HANDS-ON choral workshop will be held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines from Oct. 25 to 29, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Trainers are led by National Artist **Andrea Veneracion** and members of the Philippine Madrigal Singers.

Workshop sessions include vocalization techniques, sectional rehearsals, conducting techniques, individual choir rehearsals, note reading sessions and plenary sessions. Culminating activity will be held at 3 p.m. on Oct. 29 at the Main Theater. Call 832-2414.

Akafellas in 'A Child's Dream' at La Salle Greenhills

THE AKAFELLAS, Sandwich and Gary Granada perform at A Child's Dream concert for the benefit of children of urban poor families, tonight at 7 p.m. at the La Salle Greenhills Gymnasium. A Child's Dream is a community-based outreach campaign and the flagship project of Abakadang Kayumanggi Community Development Foundation (AKCDF) that advocates children's rights and mobilizes education, health care and nutrition support for poor children.

Other performers include Cambio, 6 Cycle Mind, Sugarfree, Joey Ayala, Out of the Box and Paul Galang, only son of the late founder "Mommy" Flor Galang. All proceeds will go to the children from the different communities sponsored by AKCDF. For ticket inquiries, call Sol or Mencie at 447-0136 or 0917-5339653.

Joey Albert is back

SHOW TIME

JOEY Albert

THE NAME Joey Albert is synonymous with songs like "Tell Me," "I Remember the Boy," "Million Miles Away," "Points of View" and "Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin," just some of her many hits.

Joey started singing when she was 5, when she sang along with the records from the collections of her father and older siblings. Her professional singing career has produced more than 10 albums and many prestigious awards such as the Tinig Award for Best Female Artist, the Guillermo Mendoza Award for Best Female Artist, and two Awit Awards. Many of her albums have also turned gold and platinum.

On Thursday, Aug. 19, 105.1 Crossover brings back Joey and her music in "Crossover Presents Joey Albert" at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati City. The instrumental group Da Capo starts the evening with contemporary jazz and R&B at 8 p.m.

Joey, with The Opera and musical director Mel Villena, have prepared a medley of her hits as well as Crossover selections like Marilyn Scott's "The Last Day," Patti Austin's "What's at the End of a Rainbow," Jones Girls' "World Will Sing Our Song" and a special Three Degrees medley.

For ticket inquiries, call Crossover, 731-1667; Ticket World, 891-9999; or Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental, 750-8888.

Dream Satellite TV covers Athens Games

DREAM Satellite TV, along with NBN 4, has clinched a deal to broadcast the 2004 Athens Olympics from Aug. 13-29.

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The Philippines almost became the only country among the participating 220 nations and territories without coverage of the Athens Olympics.

"Dream has been known for bringing to its subscribers world-class sporting events like the World Cup, the Southeast Asian Games in 2002, the SEA Games in 2003 and, just recently, the Euro UEFA Games," said Cesar G. Reyes, Dream Satellite TV CEO. "We couldn't let the Olympics, the world's most awaited sporting event, pass without Dream covering it."

Dream will be broadcasting on as many as six Olympic channels. Viewers will get to appreciate other games aside from basketball and boxing, which are the more popular games usually covered.

From Athens, the games will be beamed to the Philippines in crystal-clear, digital quality using Dream Satellite TV's system.

In line with Dream Satellite TV's coverage of the 2004 Athens Olympics, Dream offers free one-month subscription for every purchase of a Dream Satellite TV System from Aug. 9-31.

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Mother Lily...

From page A32

also Mother Lily's," Tieng said. "These are not shell companies. William Lao owns MegaVision, and he's an old hand in film production. Last year, BasFilms was co-producer of Unitel Productions' 'Crying Ladies.'"

'Unfair'

Earlier last week, Rochelle Monteverde, Mother Lily's daughter, said Regal was helping these two film companies "by lending them the stars."

"It's unfair for them if we're being identified as the producer of these movies," said Rochelle. "They seldom produce movies, and it's unfair that when they do, it's credited to us. But we're helping them (make these movies). Mr. Lao is a good friend of my dad. He comes here to the house to play mahjong with him. How can we refuse to help him?"

Joel Lamangan, who directs "Mano Po 3," "Que Sera Sera," and "Aishite Imasu 1941," said that "as far as I know, Regal is only line-producing 'Aishite.' Someone else is bankrolling the film."

Del Rosario observed: "We not only have a Mother Lily film festival, but also a Joel Lamangan festival. Are they the only ones who make up the industry?"

Asked what he felt about three of his movies making it to the film fest, Lamangan said, "I don't know how I would finish them. But so far, I have already started with two of them and would start the Vilma Santos movie ('Mano Po 3') by Sept. 15."

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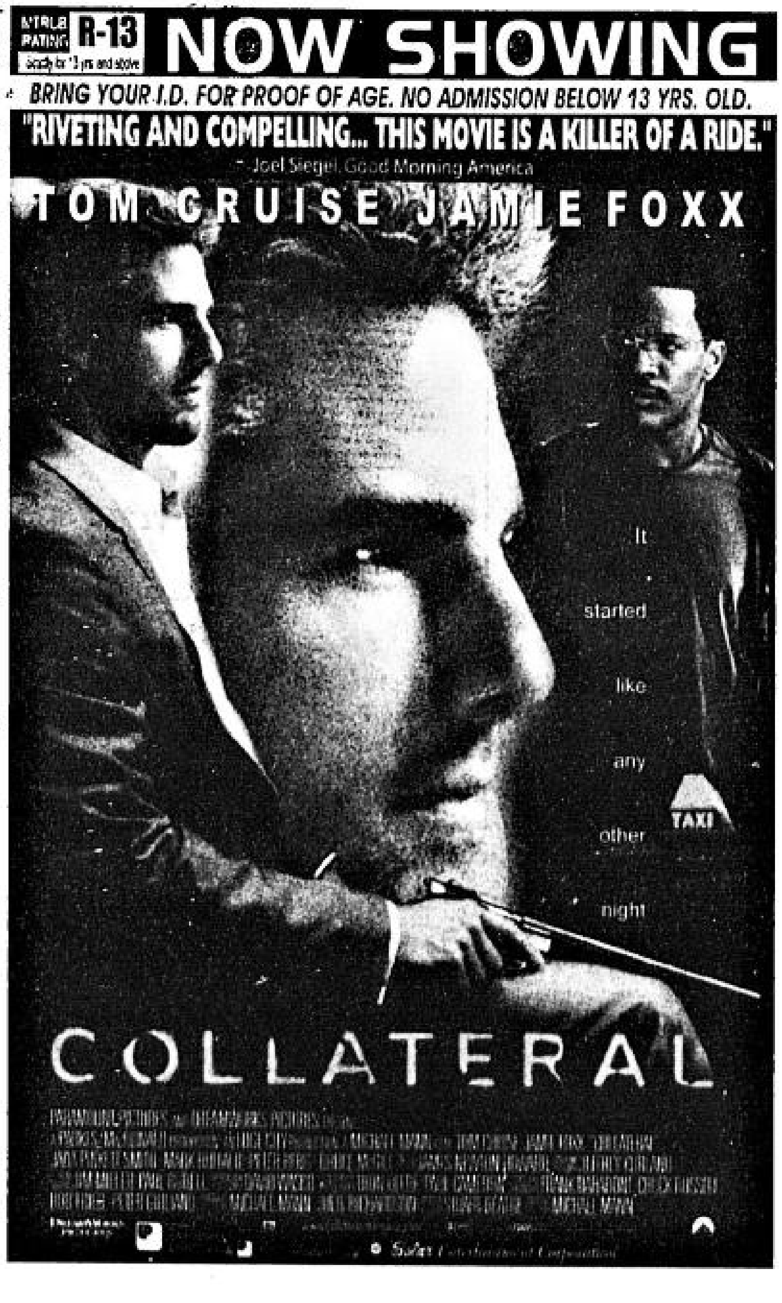
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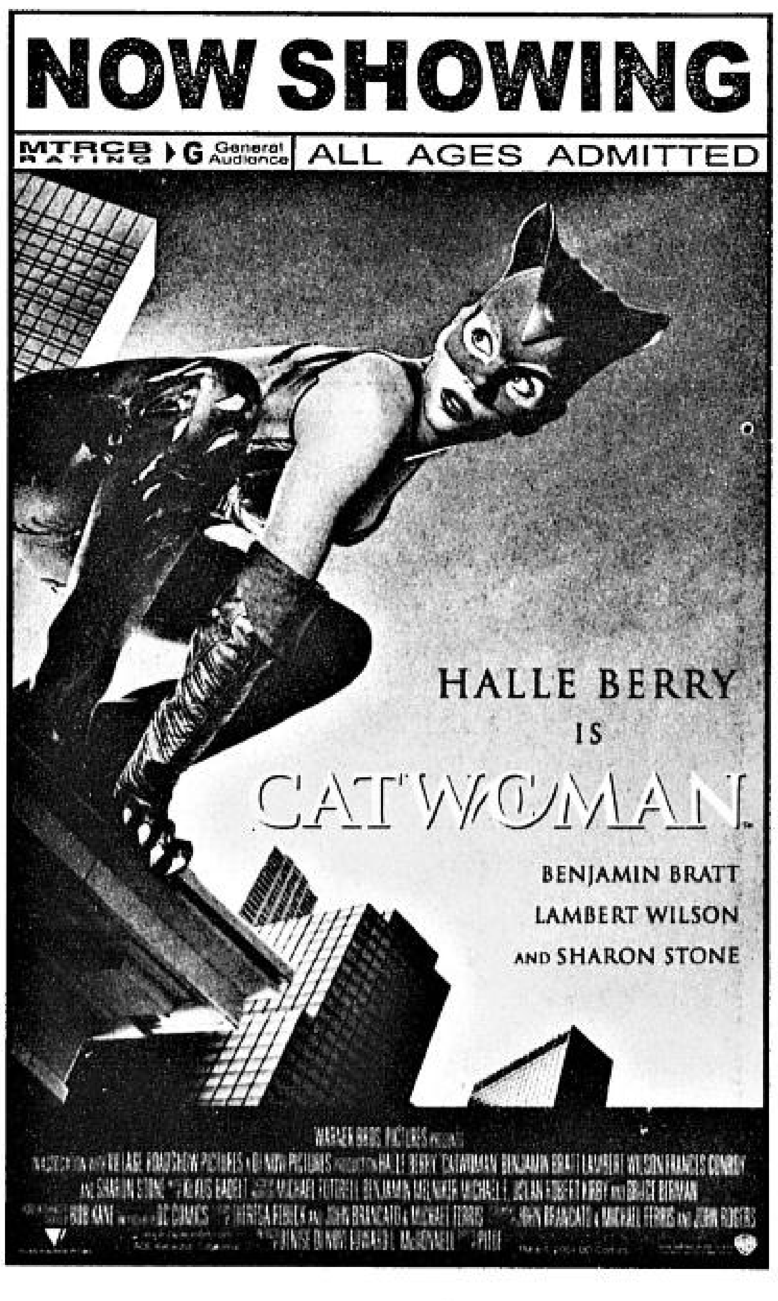

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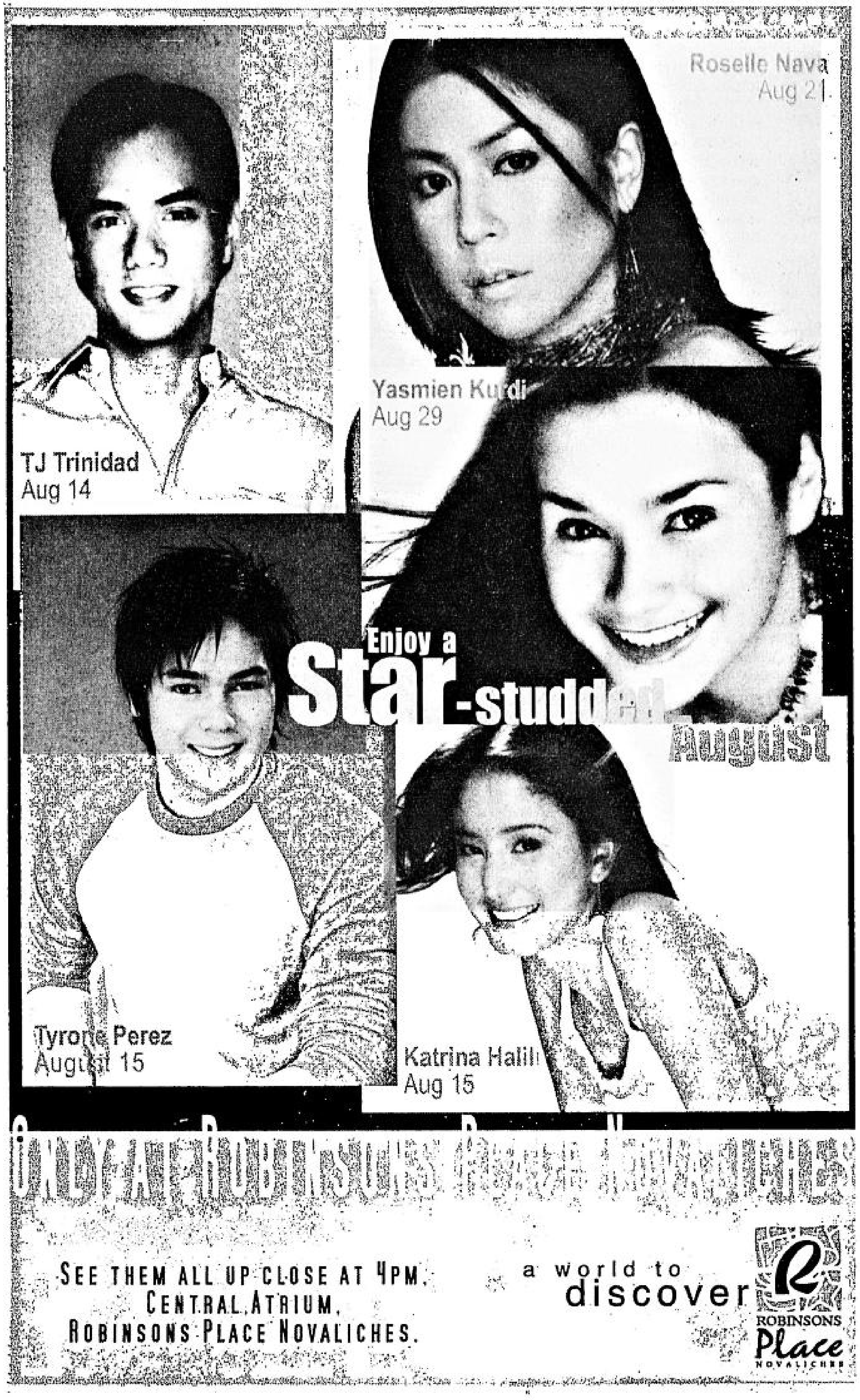

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Editor Louie C. Camino

DEL ROSARIO

'Mother Lily must withdraw 2 films,' says Boss Vic

By Nini Valera

MOVIE PRODUCER Lily Monteverde must have the decency to withdraw two of her entriés in December's Metro Manila Film Festival, according to Viva Films' Vic del Rosario.

MONTEVERDE

"She cannot deny that she has four entries," said Del Rosario. "The whole industry knows she has four film festival entries, and that's very unfair to the other producers. She herself negotiated with us for the services of Anne Curtis, who is a contract star of Viva, for 'Sigaw.' So she cannot deny that she is the movie's producer."

"Sigaw," however, was submitted to the film fest as an entry of MegaVision.

Del Rosario told INQUIRER Entertainment last week that he had backed out of the negotiation for Curtis' services when it was clear that Monteverde wanted the young actress to appear in a film festival entry she would produce. He said this broke an earlier agreement between the movie producers and the film festival committee that an outfit and its satellite company could submit only one entry each.

"In Mother Lily's case, she has dominated the film festival this year with four entries," Del Rosario pointed out. "That's 50 percent of the total number of films that would be shown during that period. Is that fair?"

Only eight movies qualified for inclusion in the film festival.

Monteverde's Regal Films had submitted "Que Sera Sera," and "Mano Po 3" under its MAQ Productions. Both qualified as finalists, along with MegaVision's "Sigaw" and BasFilm Pictures' "Aishite Imasu 1941," which is also being line-produced by Regal Films.

The other finalists are Viva's "Lastikman," OctoArts' "Enteng Kabisote," "Bulong" from OctoArts satellite company Canary Films, and Cesar Montano's "Panaghoy sa Suba."

Del Rosario said he submitted only "Lastikman" as Viva's entry, unlike last year when his company had two entries: "Filipinas" and "Captain Barbell," co-produced with Premier Productions.

He stressed that this year, "there are only four producers participating in the film festival."

Encourage them

Del Rosario said, *"Paano na lang si* Madame Violet (Sevilla, of Violett Films, producer of the awards-laden 'Magnifico')? She had an entry, and it's a Maryo J (de los Reyes) film. It did not qualify. The whole industry knows that her 'Magnifico' won several awards here and abroad.

"I am more worried for the independent producers than for myself," he claimed. "We should encourage them to produce films. But what is happening is they are being sidelined and taken out of the running."

Violett Films submitted two entries: "Guardia de Honor," written by Ricky Lee and the late Lino Brocka, and "Black Eye," to be directed by Maryo J. de los Reyes and written by Michiko Yamamoto.

Producer Violet Sevilla admitted she was so disappointed when neither of the two films qualified in the film fest.

"Of course, I feel bad," Sevilla told INQUIRER Entertainment last week. "If they read the script of both movies, they would realize that the movies would have turned out very well."

Her "Magnifico" was a grand slam winner for best picture, best actor (Jiro Manio), best screenplay (Michiko Yamamoto) and best director in the local awards derbies this year.

Better than 'Magnifico'

"In fact, 'Black Eye' was a better story than 'Magnifico," Sevilla said. "Since I have two entries under the same production outfit, the festival committee was asking me which one I preferred to win. And that made me very confident already.

"I felt so disappointed that I'm now rethinking my role as a movie producer. I'm now thinking very hard about doing my next movie. I thought that if I became a finalist in the film fest, I would be given the chance to be part of an industry that puts a premium on quality films.

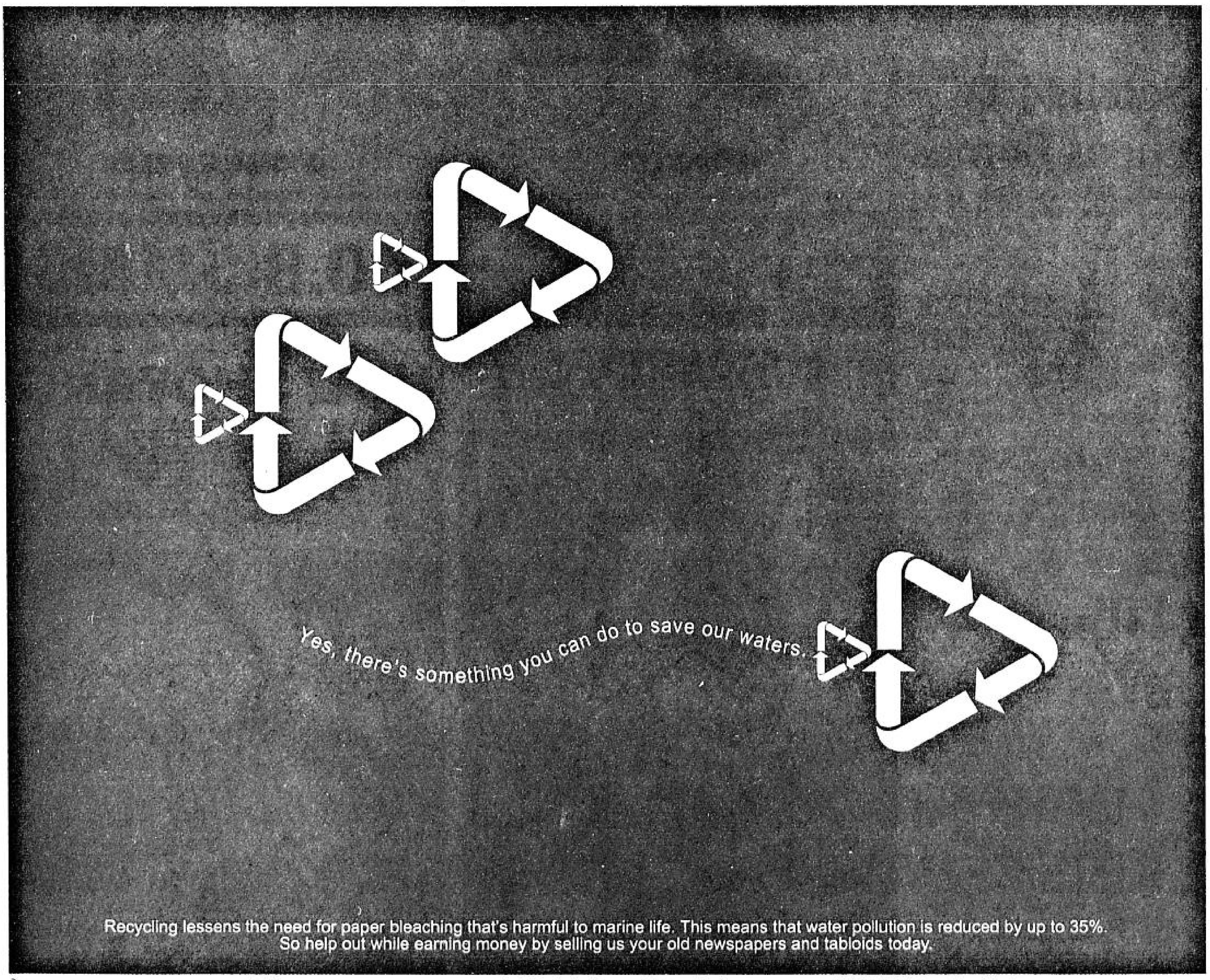
"What should I do so I wouldn't be excluded? If I only had access to Malacañang, I would go there and ask the President what I am doing wrong that I cannot get a slot in the Metro Manila Film Festival."

"Magnifico" was submitted to the 2001 Metro Manila Film Festival, but did not qualify. It went on to foreign film festivals where it won awards for the director, the actor and the writer. It is now being shown on cable channels, but Sevilla claimed she still has to recoup her costs.

Wilson Tieng, a member of the festival's screening committee, said that as far as the board is concerned, Monteverde had submitted only two entries, "Mano Po 3" under MAQ Productions and "Que Sera Sera" under Regal Entertainment.

"We don't know if MegaVision's and BasFilms' entries are

MOTHER/A31



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Agriculture output up 6.6% in 1st half

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE FARM sector, which accounts for a fifth of the country's gross domestic product, posted a 6.61-percent production growth in the first semester of the year due largely to good palay and corn harvests.

The first half growth was much better than the 2.62-percent expansion registered in the same period last year.

In the second quarter, agriculture output grew 4.68 percent. Although this was slower than the 8.16-percent expansion in the first quarter, the growth rate was higher than the 1.62 percent posted in the same quarter last year, the Department of Agriculture said .

The DA's Bureau of Agricultural Statistics said that all the agriculture sub-sectors recorded output gains, with the crops and fishery sub-sectors propelling the growth in the first half of the year.

Palay production increased by 12.21 percent to 6 million metric tons during the period, reversing the decline posted a year ago. Corn production rose 14.08 percent to 2.3 million metric tons.

Agriculture economist Rolando Dy said in an interview that the growth posted by the farm sector so far had surpassed expectations. For the entire year, the farm sector is projected to post a 4-percent growth.

With the first semester figure, Dy said this year's farm output growth could surpass the target.

Dy said the agriculture sector seemed to have started to pull out of the boom-and-bust cycle that characterized the sector in the past.

"We must sustain this momentum through the continued use of modern farm technologies, improved seeds and other farm inputs, and the adoption of an appropriate policy framework," he said.

A report of the BAS showed the crops sub-sector posting the highest growth of 14.77 percent , followed by poultry with 13.52 percent.

Agriculture officials said the crops sub-sector, which accounted for half of the total value of farm production, did well largely because of the record palay harvest, which was attributed to the expansion of irrigated areas planted to palay and the increased use of hybrid seeds and other farm inputs.

Corn output also went up due to an increase in areas planted, favorable weather and to improved yields per hectare particularly in Cagayan Valley, the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, Northern Mindanao, Socsksargen and Ilocos.

The same BAS report showed that tobacco output fell 22 percent due to flash floods and frequent rainfall in the Visayas and the Caraga area. Mango, coffee, garlic and sweet potato also showed production declines due to the rising prices of inputs.

Despite a drop in cattle output, the livestock sub-sector managed to grow by 3.3 percent in the first quarter due to higher production of carabao, hogs, goat and dairy products.

Poultry production also grew by 3.4 percent which, however, was slower than the 5.06-percent expansion in the first quarter of 2003.

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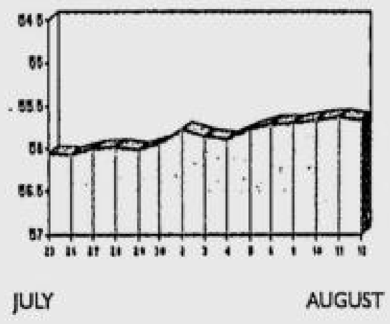

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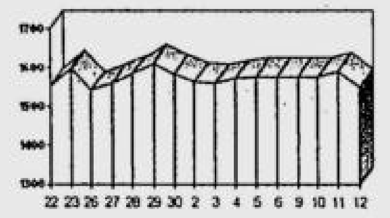


(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks slightly up

STOCKS finished flat yesterday as inflation concerns, sparked by surging oil prices, tempered gains in blue chips such as conglomerate Ayala Corp. following strong quarterly earnings.

Analysts said the market was now ripe for a correction with the corporate results season almost over.

"We're expecting a correction soon due to negative factors like higher oil prices, possible interest rate increases, and pressure on consumer prices."

The main index finished 2.08 points or 0.13 percent up at 1,549.48 points, the fourth straight day of gains. The market is up 11 percent so far this year.

Value turnover dipped to P681.8 million from Wednesday's P820.9 million .

In the broader market, gainers beat losers 38 to 36 and there were 48 stocks unchanged. ***Reuters***

BIR exceeds collection goal

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue, which accounts for over two-thirds of the country's total tax take, beat its collection target in July, raising the government's chances of meeting its 2004 budget deficit goal, a senior official said yesterday.

The BIR yesterday said it surpassed, although by a slight margin, its July collection target of P38.02 billion. It was the second time this year that the BIR was able to meet its monthly collection target. The first was in March when it collected P33.6 billion, as against the goal of P32.1 billion.

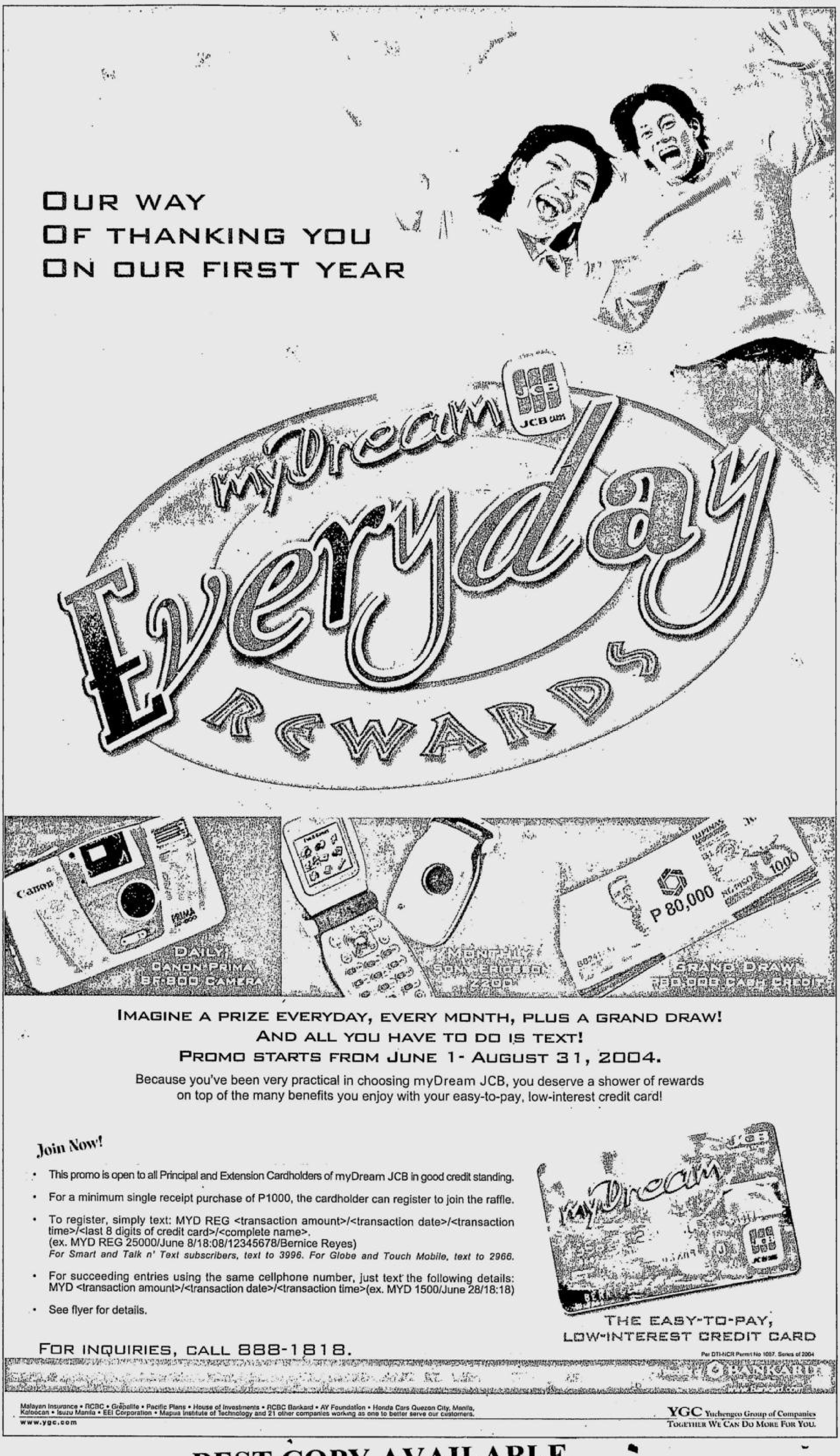
"We are still finalizing the figures with the Bureau of Treasury, but initial data showed that we have already surpassed our goal for July," said Revenue Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares in a telephone interview.

The BIR said the higher-than-programmed collection in July was made possible by increases in the revenue contributions from its large taxpayers unit and various revenue district offices (RDOs) nationwide. While the large taxpayers unit caters to big corporate taxpayers and, the RDOs are in charge of collecting from small-, medium-sized and individual taxpayers.

However, the BIR's first half target of P234.475 billion was not met, with collection amounting to only P229.042 billion.

For the whole year, the agency aims to collect P477 billion.

Henares said the BIR was hopeful it would be able to meet its collection target for 2004 despite missing its first-half target. The BIR usually starts the year slow, but collection picks up in the second half. ***Michelle V. Remo***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CURRENCIES

August 12, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.818197	1.000000	55.6820
Japan	Yen	0.007380	0.009020	0.5023
United Kingdom	Pound	1.498118	1.831000	101.9537
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.104913	0.128225	7.1398
Switzerland	Franc	0.648642	0.792770	44.1430
Canada	Dollar	0.617507	0.754717	42.0242
Singapore	Dollar	0.477946	0.584146	32.5264
Australia	Dollar	0.582886	0.712403	39.6680
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.170398	2.652661	147.7055
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.218186	0.266667	14.8486
Brunei	Dollar	0.476555	0.582445	32.4317
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000088	0.000108	0.0060
Thailand	Baht	0.019711	0.024091	1.3414
UAE	Dirham	0.222772	0.272272	15.1606
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.222200	68.0545
Argentina	Peso	0.270389	0.330469	18.4012
Brazil	Real	0.269676	0.329598	18.3527
Denmark	Kroner	0.134446	0.164320	9.1497
India	Rupee	0.017691	0.021622	1.2040
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215344	0.263193	14.6551
Mexico	New Peso	0.071696	0.087627	4.8792
New Zealand	Dollar	0.534839	0.653680	36.3982
Norway	Kroner	0.120290	0.147018	8.1863
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013899	0.016987	0.9459
South Africa	Rand	0.131623	0.160870	8.9576
Korea	Won	0.000709	0.000866	0.0482
Sweden	Kroner	0.108651	0.132793	7.3942
Syria	Pound	0.019831	0.024237	1.3496
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024107	0.029464	1.6406
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000427	0.000522	0.0291

CAP quashes rumors of delayed tuition

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

COLLEGE Assurance Plan Philippines Inc., the country's leading pre-need firm, said none of its scholars were denied permits to take their exams due to late payments.

This clarification was made on reports (not the INQUIRER) that CAP scholars were allegedly barred from taking their final exams because of the pre-need firm's late payment of tuition fees.

CAP said in a statement issued yesterday that in the case of the University of Sto. Tomas (UST), CAP paid P48 million a month before the start of the second semester of 2003-2004.

The balance of P32 million was paid before the final exams, allowing all of its scholars to take their exams, the statement said.

CAP enrolls its scholars under a direct-to-school payment facility agreement (DSPFA), under which CAP advances the payment of 60 percent of the estimated tuition fee of its scholars.

A month after the enrollment, the school bills CAP for the tuition of its scholars who have actually enrolled.

CAP pays the school four weeks after the bill is sent, or before the final exams.

In UST, CAP pays a processing fee of P100 for each scholar, which amounted to roughly P350,000 a semester for 3,500 CAP scholars.

CAP said it was reviewing the system, implemented since 2003, "in the spirit of financial prudence."

This meant that until a new set of terms and conditions are in place, CAP scholars enrolled at UST have to claim their checks themselves from CAP offices.

CAP added that all checks issued by CAP to pay for school fees of scholars at UST were honored by banks.

Under the DSPFA system, schools send assessment statements to CAP, which show tuition fees and all miscellaneous fees. However, CAP is bound to pay only the tuition fee and standard fees.

Some of the fees that are reflected in the assessment sheets, but are not payable under the CAP Scholarship Funding agreement, include deposit on breakage and losses, development fees, insurance, test papers, laboratory gowns, energy charges, athletics fee, Internet fee and the repainting of school buildings.

CAP has 90,000 scholars enrolled this school year and is studying ways to speed up the processing of assessment sheets.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 12, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	10,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.25	342,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41.5	41.5	41	41	719,300
China Banking Corp.	535	535	535	535	3,170
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	40.5	40.5	40	40	9,300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.46	0.48	0.46	0.48	430,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	26.5	25.5	26	82,300
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	40,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	12,000
Security Bank Corp.	21.5	22	21.5	22	31,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	24	24.25	24	24.25	38,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.34	1.32	1.34	174,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	110	110	110	110	2,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1495	1495	1490	1490	790
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-Cbn Broadcasting Corp.	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	7,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.67	0.68	0.67	0.67	3,800,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	920	920	900	910	50,470
Ipeople Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.48	252,000
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	1,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	2,000,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.5	2.55	2.48	2.5	11,148,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1270	1280	1270	1280	87,920
Ivantage Corp.	0.63	0.71	0.63	0.71	15,390,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	5,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.25	15.5	15.25	15.25	66,800
Manila Electric Co. B	23	23.5	23	23	593,500
Petron Corp.	2.65	2.7	2.65	2.7	1,069,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.38	2.38	50,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	80,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.28	2,676,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.65	3.65	3.6	3.65	2,327,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.41	0.43	0.39	0.43	1,950,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	750,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.82	960,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	2.95	2.95	36,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	100
Jollibee Foods Corp.	26	26	25.5	26	305,000
RFM Corp.	0.77	0.84	0.77	0.78	210,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56.5	57	56.5	57	37,300
San Miguel Corp. B	70.5	70.5	70.5	70.5	16,500
Universal Robina Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	220,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.0055	8,000,000
Ayala Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	19,002,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	1,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.022	0.024	0.022	0.024	4,200,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	10,000
APC Group Inc.	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.007	0.006	0.007	323,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	20,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	41,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.02	1.02	1	1	90,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	24.75	24.75	24.5	24.5	19,300
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.165	0.17	0.165	0.165	1,420,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.5	0.52	0.5	0.51	7,440,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	50,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	200,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	4,310,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.44	1.48	9,344,000
Aries Prime Res. Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	3,300,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	30,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	3	3	3	3	8,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24	24	24	24	182,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.0725	0.07	0.0725	43,200,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	320,000
Ionics Inc.	1.12	1.2	1.12	1.18	237,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	36,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	2,500,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	5,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	469,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	3,660,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	20,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.85	0.84	0.85	130,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	550,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	640,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	350,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Jardine Davies Inc.	24	24	24	24	200
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	15,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.065	0.0675	0.065	0.065	3,600,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	160,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.66	0.8	0.66	0.78	69,720,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	100,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.3	1,180,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	40,000
Macroasia Corp. Warrants	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	890,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.3	5.4	6,704,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.52	0.45	0.5	1,950,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	950,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	2,270,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	10,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	550,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	1,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	290,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.33	0.33	710,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	30,000
SM Development Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	70,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	25,302,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	82,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	150,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.225	2,340,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	89,300,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	165,700,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.004	0.0038	0.0038	323,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.39	0.4	0.38	0.39	1,090,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.45	0.46	0.44	0.44	1,930,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	700,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	3,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	11,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	29,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	30,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.7	3.7	3.1	3.1	470,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.035	0.038	0.035	0.037	42,200,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.195	350,000

Building on success

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

"WHEN the new (agriculture) secretary starts next week, he may ignore the successes of the previous secretaries and try to reinvent the wheel again," according to Ka Elvie Baladad during a meeting of the Alyansa Agrikultura, the biggest farmer-fisherfolk coalition today.

The table below shows the track record of the previous Department of Agriculture (DA) secretaries:

Agricultural growth (Gross Value Added)

Year	Growth Rate	DA Secretary
'91-'99	2.1%	Others
2000	3.6%	Angara
2001	4.9%	Montemayor
2002	3.7%	Montemayor
2003	3.6%	Lorenzo

The figures indicate that the boom and bust cycle of high and low growth have stabilized at a 4% average annual growth rate from 2000 to 2003. This is double the 2.1% agricultural growth in the 1990s, which, at that time, could not even keep up with our 2.3% annual population increase.

This stabilizing trend started when the agriculture sector, then under Angara, posted a 6.4% growth in 1999, which compensated for the 6.5% loss suffered in 1998 due to the El Niño disturbance that year.

Also, the 4.9% and 3.7% growth increases in 2001 and 2002 under Montemayor far exceeded the growth forecast for those years. This was especially true for 2002, when only 1 to 2% increase was predicted because of the mild El Niño that year.

Meanwhile, the 3.6% growth achieved by Lorenzo sustained the growth momentum. This contradicted the past pattern of a bust following a boom period. This is no mean feat.

2004 performance

According to several press releases, the 7.5% agricultural growth achieved during the first quarter of 2004 is the highest growth in the last fifteen years. This is misleading.

Looking at only the last six years, official statistics from the National Statistical Coordination Board show that there are three quarters when this 7.5% benchmark was breached: 12.3% in 1998's first quarter, 9.5% in 1999's second quarter, and 7.7% in that same year's fourth quarter.

Furthermore, unlike industry, quarterly growth can change dramatically with weather conditions. Postponing a harvest because of a different rainfall pattern can make one quarter's growth performance unusually high at the expense of another quarter.

For example, in 1998, the 12.3 percent first quarter increase was followed by a 10 percent decrease; in 1999, the second quarter. 9.5 percent increase was preceded by only a 3.0 percent increase; and that year's fourth quarter, 7.7 percent increase was followed by a measly 0.1 percent increase. It would therefore be a mistake to conclude that this year's first quarter 7.5 percent increase may be duplicated during the remainder of the year.

Three secretaries

The incoming DA secretary should vigorously work for significant agricultural growth by building on the successes of the previous department chiefs.

Angara gave much needed attention to the sector and succeeded in getting a significantly higher budget to promote agriculture. For example, he allocated P1.6 billion for the long neglected rice program. In so doing, the 300,000 harvested hectares using certified seeds that had stagnated at this level for thirteen years dramatically doubled to 700,000 hectares in 2000. This resulted in significantly improving both the rice yield and income of the farmers.

Montemayor, on the other hand, identified local government leaders as the primary force behind agriculture growth.

He also placed rep-

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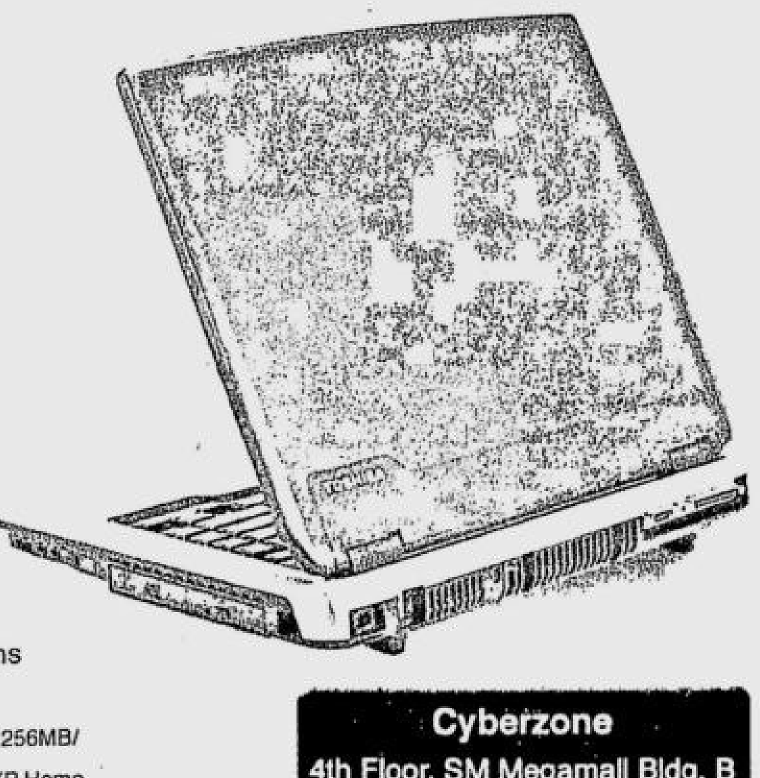

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Peso strengthening, BSP says

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO continues to strengthen against the US dollar, despite the expected increase in global interest rates, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Officer-in-Charge Amando Tetangco Jr. said yesterday.

The peso hit an intra-day high of 55.58 at the Philippine Dealing System yesterday, the highest level since June, before closing at 55.67 to the greenback on a volume of $151 million.

Tetangco said in an interview that while yesterday's close was not too far from the 55.64:$1 close the previous day, the weighted average had been improving over the last few days.

"Judging from the last few days of trading, (the peso) is trending toward strengthening," Tetangco said.

He said there was some corporate demand at P55.60, which was preventing the peso from rallying.

"Some corporations find that a good buying level," he said.

The US dollar strengthened against major currencies earlier this week after the US Federal Reserve raised its key interest rate and released a favorable outlook on the US economy.

The US Fed raised its key policy rate to 1.5 percent from 1.25 percent on Tuesday, its second hike in six weeks, after keeping the rate at its lowest since the 1950s.

A further tightening was expected through 2005, but the BSP has said it would hold off corresponding increases in local rates as long as it could.

Tetangco also noted that portfolio inflows to the country remained positive, although slower than comparative levels a year ago.

PRULINK.	PRU LIFE U.K.	
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week August 10, 2004	Last Week August 03, 2004
Bond Fund - Peso	1.14709	1.15376
Managed Fund - Peso	1.20652	1.20895
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.0396	1.0339

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

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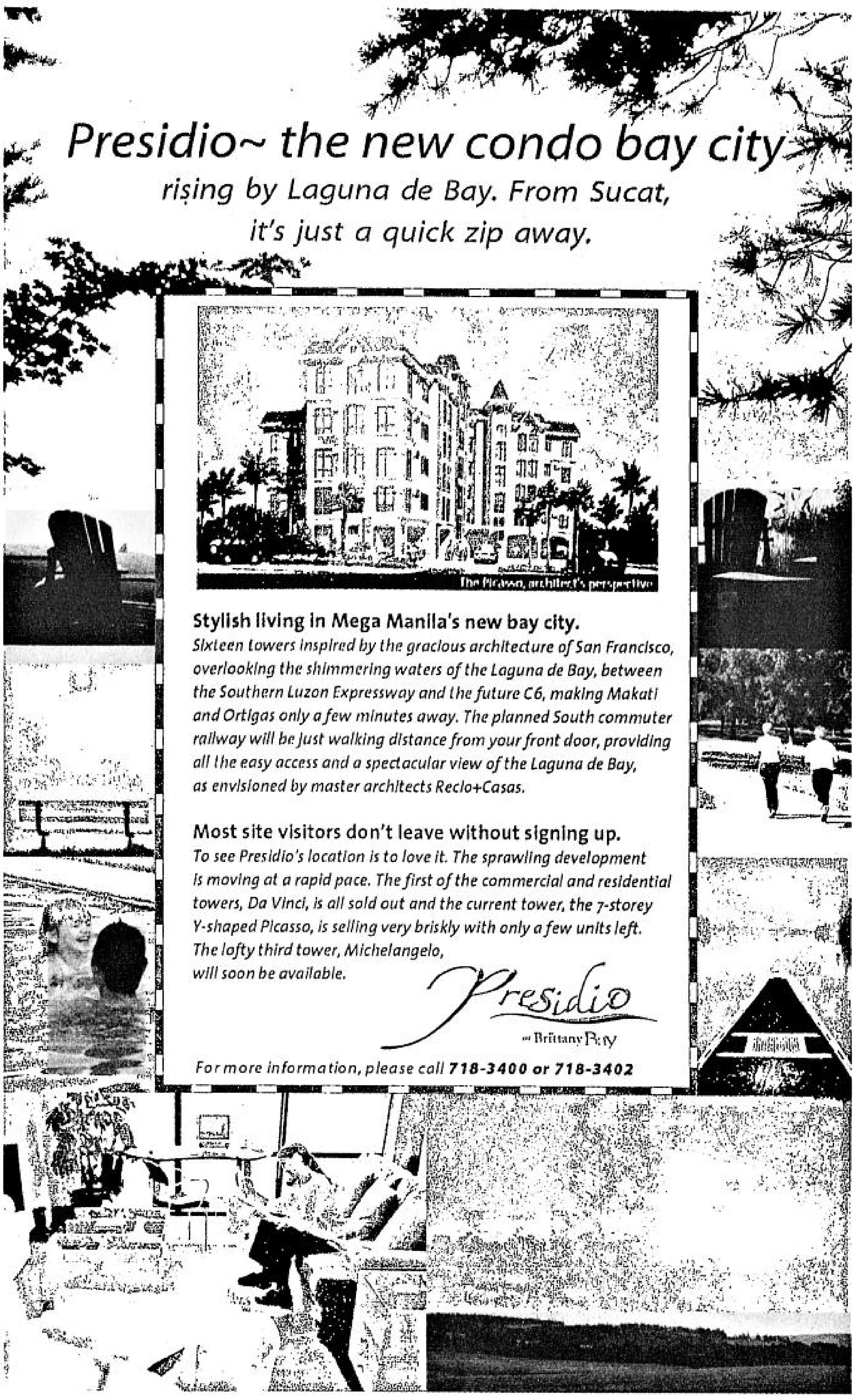

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The Picasso, architect's perspective

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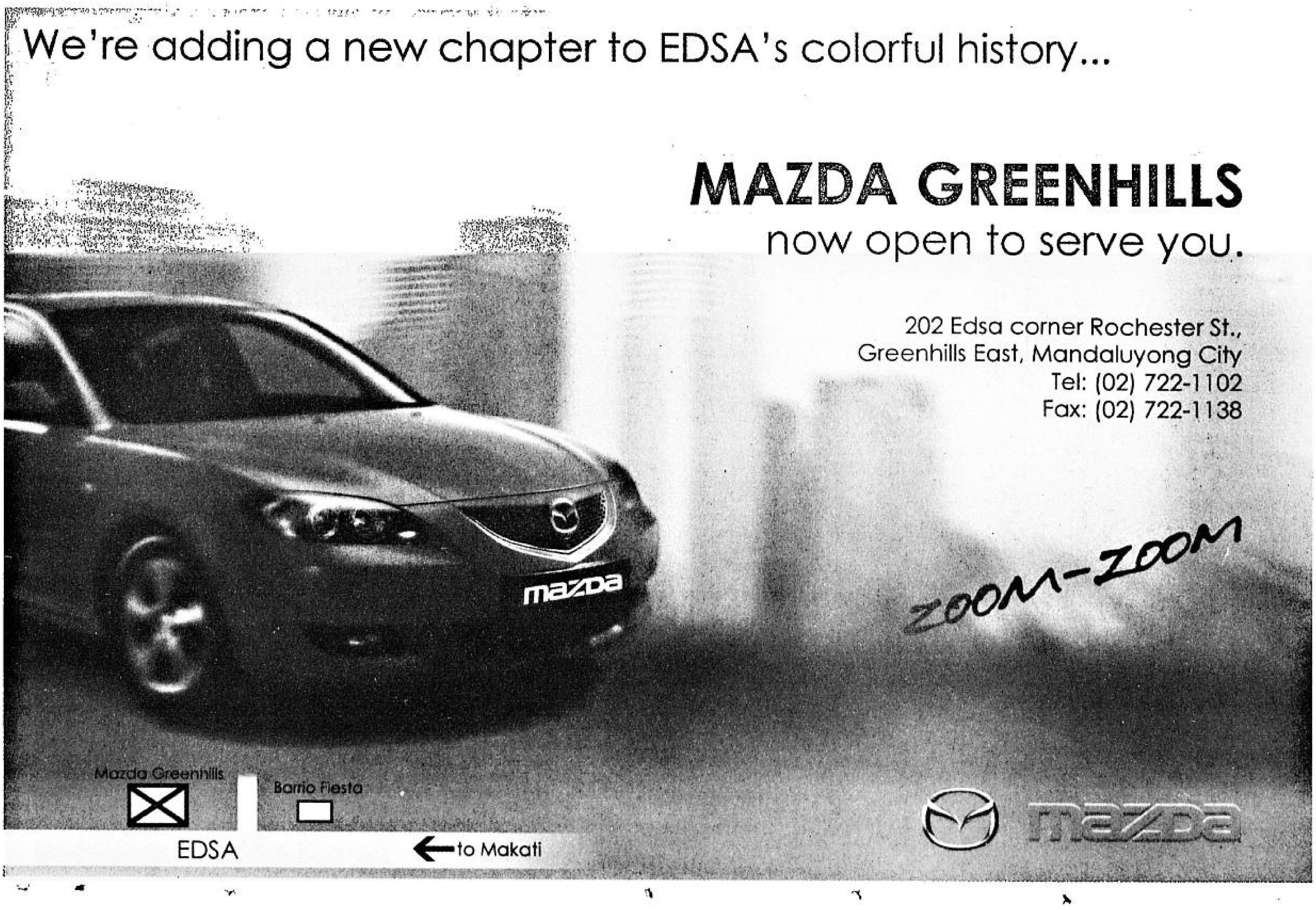

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

So rich in resources, so poor in investments

By Maria Congee S. Gomez
Contributor

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TAX-FILES

By Emmanuel C. Alcantara and Jules Ann S. Terrado
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Section 73(A) of the Tax Code, provides that, where a corporation distributes all of its assets in complete liquidation or dissolution, the gain realized or loss sustained by the stockholder, whether individual or corporate, is a taxable income or a deductible loss, as the case may be.

On the other hand, Section 256 of Revenue Regulations No. 2, implementing Section 72(a) of the Tax Code, states that, in cases where a corporation distributes all of its property or assets in complete liquidation or dissolution, the gain realized from the transaction by the stockholder, whether individual or corporate, is taxable to the extent recognized in Section 34(b) the Tax Code. x x x If the amount received by the stockholder in liquidation is less than the cost or other basis of the stock, the loss in the transaction is deductible to the extent allowed in Section 34(c) of the Code.

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The BIR has been silent on this issue for a long time now. It has to resolve this matter eventually, or the courts should. Until then, please bear in mind that liquidating gains are subject to ordinary income tax rate of 32 percent, and not to 5 percent/10 percent capital gains tax.

Can you market real estate like toothpaste?

MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: WE'RE a fairly successful real property developer nearing our 10th year anniversary. Over the past years, we've launched and sold condominium projects and subdivision development projects mostly in Metro Manila. Outside of Metro Manila, our inventory of land titles is in Laguna, Batangas, Pampanga, Bataan and Zambales. It was our great grandfather who (accumulated) all these lands, buying each one at bargain basement prices every quarter for 20 years. Now, we're ready to go outside Metro Manila. For marketing our new projects, we hired an expensive professional, an ex-Colgate-Palmolive marketing executive. But he's tackling real property marketing like he's marketing Colgate toothpaste arguing that 'marketing is marketing anywhere you go.' We didn't do marketing for our Metro Manila projects. We just relied heavily on sales agents. But it had worked. Somehow, we feel marketing real properties is very different from the marketing of consumer goods. What do you think?

A: So what were you thinking when you hired a toothpaste marketing man? But seriously, before anything else, we have to talk marketing concepts and principles here for two reasons. First, it's because we don't know the details of your situation and your market. It would have helped a lot if we had a copy of your marketing executive's marketing plan for even just one of your outside Metro Manila projects. If we had, we can talk specifics. Unfortunately, we can only be as specific as you are specific.

And second, it's because you and your marketing executive both speak with some element of truth. Yes, real property marketing is different from consumer marketing. And yes, marketing is marketing anywhere you go. But the key is to balance these two perspectives. When you've reached the correct balanced equation of these two variables, then you can take the necessary action. So, you have to know two things. One, what the areas of difference are. Two, what differences matter for your attaining your marketing objectives.

You can think of the two sides of the marketing equation to balance as the marketer side and the customer side. In terms of our past two Friday columns, that's the market-driving side and the market-driven side.

Magnitude of the marketing task

The marketer or market-driving side says that we must take into account the critical areas of difference between real property marketing versus consumer marketing. The senior MRx's years of consulting experience assisting real property developers had shown to us that this critical and vital difference is in what we have called the "MMT" or the magnitude of the marketing task. In real property marketing, MMT can be counted and discreet. Take, for example, even a large condo project with 300 units. The MMT is to sell 300 units for the duration of the campaign. And then that's it. There is no requirement for repeat purchase. Contrast that to your marketing executive's MMT at his previous job disposing of millions of toothpaste every month of the year!

From that angle, the MMT is much simpler in real property marketing than in consumer marketing. But from another angle, the MMT is much more complex in real property. Just consider the decision, among others, of how many of the 300 units should be studio, 1, 2 and 3 bedroom units. Because this is basically a one-time purchase for your customers, you don't have the benefit of experiencing the sales split that consumer marketing gets. After the first, second and third purchase of toothpaste, you know what percent of your total sales go to the small, medium and large SKU (shelf keeping unit) pack sizes. That's the consumer preferences right there and you can partition your SKU production accordingly. You don't have that kind of consumer preference indication in real property development.

Maverick real estate marketer

But developer Gilbert Yu developed an ingenious marketing strategy to even the playing field despite this MMT difference. For example, for his Fort Bonifacio project, he offered his condo units to prospective buyers at P42,700/sq.m. but bare. Then, he targeted selling 60 percent of the total area within the first seven months. Within that period, any paying buyer's money is place in escrow at Banco de Oro. Should the project not get its 60 percent target after seven months, the project is terminated but the buyer gets back his money with interest. So what happened? The project got its 60 percent. It helped that many units were sold as ex-deal payment to suppliers.

Let's now move on to the market and customer side of the real property marketing equation. That's being market-driven where your marketing executive takes the position that "marketing is marketing anywhere you go." For example, you still have to do "market segmentation," the S-T-P, that is, segment the total market, target a segment, and then position the product. But even here, there is a big difference.

Even when segmenting the market by socio-economic class (SEC), real property marketers find it practical, for example, to partition the Class A that the latest Nielsen SEC data estimate nationwide as less than one percent of total population into three sub-segments of Class AAA, Class AA, and Class A.

You can readily see the influence of the MMT concept here. If you are marketing a 160-home subdivision project and you're after the one percent Class AB market of 800,000 individuals or 160,000 families, the MMT still looks "very manageable." That's equivalent to going after a mere 0.1% (= 160/160,000) of the total Class AB family market.

Or else think of the customer segment targeting step needed. In real property marketing this becomes a matter of getting a list of prequalified prospects of 1,600 for that 160-home subdivision project. Then assuming a low selling productivity of your sales force of 10 percent or 800 under a higher selling productivity of 50 percent. That's niche marketing. It's a very distant from even segment marketing, and definitely remote from mass marketing in the selling of toothpaste.

Simulating repeat purchase

What real property marketers have learned in market segmentation is how to simulate repeat purchase. Developers who segment their database of home or lot owners by family life cycle stages profited by being able to sell a second and even a third home to the same customer, or a condo to a home owner, or a home to a condo owner. Here's the full identification of the life cycle stages:

Stage 1: Bachelors

Stage 2: Newly married with no kids

Stage 3: Full nesters #1 - youngest kid is less than six years

Stage 4: Full nesters #2 - youngest kind is six or more years

Stage 5: Full nesters #3 - older couples but dependent children are still at home

Stage 6: Empty nesters #1 - older couples, with or without children at home, and the household head is still working

Stage 7: Empty nesters #2 - older couples, with or without children at home but the household head has retired

Manny Nisperos, a marketing veteran and an ex-P&G, had a simpler stages definition. It's a life cycle with only four stages:

Stage 1: Early nesters

Stage 2: Family and/or career builders

Stage 3: Equity builders

Stage 4: Twilighters

Whichever version of the life cycle stages you like or use for your market segmentation, you can readily appreciate either one's repeat purchase potential application. Someone who graduates from the newly married with no kids stage to the full nester #1 stage will experience a real change in home living needs. Past research have established, for example, that the two stages of full nesters #1 and empty nesters #1 showed peak home owning and changing behaviors. These are your segments for home owner repeat purchase opportunities.

We can summarize our answer to your question very simply: The area of similarity between real property marketing and consumer marketing is in the marketing processes. We cited two processes: the process of MMT analysis and the S-T-P process. The area of difference is in the elements or components of each process. In the MMT analysis, real property marketing deals with discreet, countable customers while consumer marketing face a huge consumer population. In the S-T-P process, real property marketing deals with niche market segmentation while consumer marketing works with mass market segmentation. *Feedback at MarketingRx@SaltandLightVentures.com. Or text us at 0919-314-5412.*

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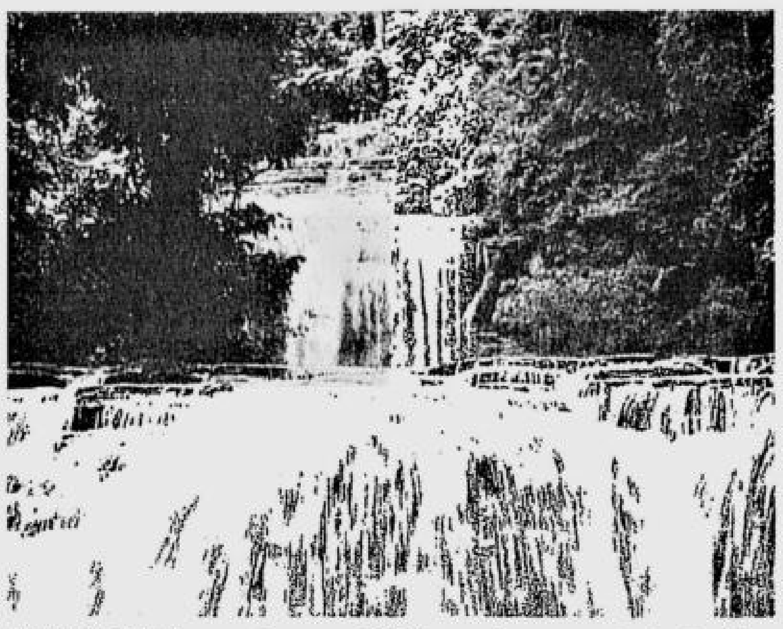

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The above provisions and issuances are enough bases to make a conclusion that capital losses incurred from liquidation may be offset against capital gains realized from, say, sale of shares of stock, for purposes of determining net capital gain or loss, provided the capital gains and losses were incurred during the same taxable year.

To say that liquidating gain should be subject to ordinary income tax opens a debate on whether liquidating loss should also be deductible from ordinary gross income. By so ruling, the BIR has created a scenario wherein liquidating gain is subject to 32 percent ordinary income tax but liquidating loss is not deductible from ordinary gross income since it is in the nature of a capital loss, which may only be offset from capital gain.

The BIR has been silent on this issue for a long time now. It has to resolve this matter eventually, or the courts should. Until then, please bear in mind that liquidating gains are subject to ordinary income tax rate of 32 percent, and not to 5 percent/10 percent capital gains tax.

Can you market real estate like toothpaste?

MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto
& Ardy Roberto

Q: WE'RE a fairly successful real property developer nearing our 10th year anniversary. Over the past years, we've launched and sold condominium projects and subdivision development projects mostly in Metro Manila. Outside of Metro Manila, our inventory of land titles is in Laguna, Batangas, Pampanga, Bataan and Zambales. It was our great grandfather who (accumulated) all these lands, buying each one at bargain basement prices every quarter for 20 years. Now, we're ready to go outside Metro Manila. For marketing our new projects, we hired an expensive professional, an ex-Colgate-Palmolive marketing executive. But he's tackling real property marketing like he's marketing Colgate toothpaste arguing that 'marketing is marketing anywhere you go.' We didn't do marketing for our Metro Manila projects. We just relied heavily on sales agents. But it had worked. Somehow, we feel marketing real properties is very different from the marketing of consumer goods. What do you think?

A: So what were you thinking when you hired a toothpaste marketing man? But seriously, before anything else, we have to talk marketing concepts and principles here for two reasons. First, it's because we don't know the details of your situation and your market. It would have helped a lot if we had a copy of your marketing executive's marketing plan for even just one of your outside Metro Manila projects. If we had, we can talk specifics. Unfortunately, we can only be as specific as you are specific.

And second, it's because you and your marketing executive both speak with some element of truth. Yes, real property marketing is different from consumer marketing. And yes, marketing is marketing anywhere you go. But the key is to balance these two perspectives. When you've reached the correct balanced equation of these two variables, then you can take the necessary action. So, you have to know two things. One, what the areas of difference are. Two, what differences matter for your attaining your marketing objectives.

You can think of the two sides of the marketing equation to balance as the marketer side and the customer side. In terms of our past two Friday columns, that's the market-driving side and the market-driven side.

Magnitude of the marketing task

The marketer or market-driving side says that we must take into account the critical areas of difference between real property marketing versus consumer marketing. The senior MRx's years of consulting experience assisting real property developers had shown to us that this critical and vital difference is in what we have called the "MMT" or the magnitude of the marketing task. In real property marketing, MMT can be counted and discreet. Take, for example, even a large condo project with 300 units. The MMT is to sell 300 units for the duration of the campaign. And then that's it. There is no requirement for repeat purchase. Contrast that to your marketing executive's MMT at his previous job disposing of millions of toothpaste every month of the year!

From that angle, the MMT is much simpler in real property marketing than in consumer marketing. But from another angle, the MMT is much more complex in real property. Just consider the decision, among others, of how many of the 300 units should be studio, 1, 2 and 3 bedroom units. Because this is basically a one-time purchase for your customers, you don't have the benefit of experiencing the sales split that consumer marketing gets. After the first, second and third purchase of toothpaste, you know what percent of your total sales go to the small, medium and large SKU (shelf keeping unit) pack sizes. That's the consumer preferences right there and you can partition your SKU production accordingly. You don't have that kind of consumer preference indication in real property development.

Maverick real estate marketer

But developer Gilbert Yu developed an ingenious marketing strategy to even the playing field despite this MMT difference. For example, for his Fort Bonifacio project, he offered his condo units to prospective buyers at P42,700/sq.m. but bare. Then, he targeted selling 60 percent of the total area within the first seven months. Within that period, any paying buyer's money is place in escrow at Banco de Oro. Should the project not get its 60 percent target after seven months, the project is terminated but the buyer gets back his money with interest. So what happened? The project got its 60 percent. It helped that many units were sold as ex-deal payment to suppliers.

Let's now move on to the market and customer side of the real property marketing equation. That's being market-driven where your marketing executive takes the position that "marketing is marketing anywhere you go." For example, you still have to do "market segmentation," the S-T-P, that is, segment the total market, target a segment, and then position the product. But even here, there is a big difference.

Even when segmenting the market by socio-economic class (SEC), real property marketers find it practical, for example, to partition the Class A that the latest Nielsen SEC data estimate nationwide as less than one percent of total population into three sub-segments of Class AAA, Class AA, and Class A.

You can readily see the influence of the MMT concept here. If you are marketing a 160-home subdivision project and you're after the one percent Class AB market of 800,000 individuals or 160,000 families, the MMT still looks "very manageable." That's equivalent to going after a mere 0.1% (= 160/160,000) of the total Class AB family market.

Or else think of the customer segment targeting step needed. In real property marketing this becomes a matter of getting a list of prequalified prospects of 1,600 for that 160-home subdivision project. Then assuming a low selling productivity of your sales force of 10 percent or 800 under a higher selling productivity of 50 percent. That's niche marketing. It's a very distant from even segment marketing, and definitely remote from mass marketing in the selling of toothpaste.

Simulating repeat purchase

What real property marketers have learned in market segmentation is how to simulate repeat purchase. Developers who segment their database of home or lot owners by family life cycle stages profited by being able to sell a second and even a third home to the same customer, or a condo to a home owner, or a home to a condo owner. Here's the full identification of the life cycle stages:

Stage 1: Bachelors
Stage 2: Newly married with no kids
Stage 3: Full nesters #1 - youngest kid is less than six years
Stage 4: Full nesters #2 - youngest kind is six or more years
Stage 5: Full nesters #3 - older couples but dependent children are still at home
Stage 6: Empty nesters #1 - older couples, with or without children at home, and
the household head is still working
Stage 7: Empty nesters #2 - older couples, with or without children at home but
the household head has retired

Manny Nisperos, a marketing veteran and an ex-P&G, had a simpler stages definition. It's a life cycle with only four stages:

Stage 1: Early nesters
Stage 2: Family and/or career builders
Stage 3: Equity builders
Stage 4: Twilighters

Whichever version of the life cycle stages you like or use for your market segmentation, you can readily appreciate either one's repeat purchase potential application. Someone who graduates from the newly married with no kids stage to the full nester #1 stage will experience a real change in home living needs. Past research have established, for example, that the two stages of full nesters #1 and empty nesters #1 showed peak home owning and changing behaviors. These are your segments for home owner repeat purchase opportunities.

We can summarize our answer to your question very simply: The area of similarity between real property marketing and consumer marketing is in the marketing processes. We cited two processes: the process of MMT analysis and the S-T-P process. The area of difference is in the elements or components of each process. In the MMT analysis, real property marketing deals with discreet, countable customers while consumer marketing face a huge consumer population. In the S-T-P process, real property marketing deals with niche market segmentation while consumer marketing works with mass market segmentation. *Feedback at MarketingRx@SaltandLightVentures.com. Or text us at 0919-314-5412.*

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Holiday fares

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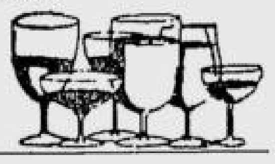


Victor C. Agustin

FOR those thinking of spending autumn or Christmas holidays with their US- and Canada-based relatives, the airfares, despite the record-high crude oil prices, have thankfully remained about the same level as last year's.

The industry benchmark, Northwest Airlines, has set a $699 economy fare to the West Coast and $799 for the East Coast for the holidays.

Asian airlines, which do not offer as many frequencies and connections to the US mainland as Northwest, generally price their fares a little lower, while Philippine Airlines tops theirs with a slight premium, considering that the flag carrier is so far the lone airline offering direct, non-stop flights to the West Coast and Vancouver out of Manila.

The Northwest offer must be booked by Aug. 31, and travel out of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport must be taken between Sept. 1 and Nov. 14. The ticket is good for 90 days, which means those who leave by November have until February to return.

Tip: Book with a travel agent, instead of the Northwest Internet-based ticketing system, and you might be able to shave off a few bucks.

Travel agents are generally allowed a 7-percent spread on the quoted ticket price, between $49 and $56 in this case, and, with cutthroat competition now prevailing in the industry, many agents are willing to knock off a point or two just to meet the sales target.

An even better tip: For those traveling together, pay through Citibank platinum or gold credit card, and the economy-class passage could go as low as $635 per passenger to Los Angeles, San Francisco, or Portland, and $732 for New York, Chicago, Washington D.C., or Toronto.

What is more, the Citibank-paid travel allows up to Dec. 15-departure out of Manila. The downside is that the return passage must be taken by Dec. 31.

Tough Guy

3D HEIR Gilbert Guy answered the publicized appeals of his mother by retorting that she should write to him directly in her own handwriting.

"He asked my mom to write what she wants on a piece of paper and (the letter) has to be written by her, otherwise, he won't read it," said Grace Guy.

The rebuff came after the Guy matriarch, who will turn 75 on Aug. 29, placed a number of newspaper advertisements pleading with her son, who has seized control of the family's home appliance business, to allow her and Gilbert's sisters to visit the ailing patriarch.

"He says he will never release dad because we have evil intentions and let dad sign documents," Grace added.

In addition to the gruff reply, Gilbert sent an estimated 20 armed men in a series of raids in the last few days to the 3D offices in Mandaluyong, Makati and Cebu, on the strength of a temporary restraining order from Judge Artemio Tipon, and seized records, computers, fax machines and telephones.

Gilbert apparently is consolidating control not only of the production side of 3D but also of the marketing and after-sales side of the family business, in the light of his acknowledgment that his father, who founded the 3D empire, has been stricken with the Alzheimer's disease, which affects a person's memory.

"I am surprised that Gilbert is saying my husband has Alzheimer's when I was recently informed by our Hong Kong lawyer that he has received a letter supposedly coming from my husband saying he is changing his last will and testament and that he will make Gilbert the sole authorized trustee and administrator of his property in Hong Kong," said Simny Guy, the matriarch.

A court order directing Gilbert to submit his father, Francisco, who is said to be also suffering from hydrocephalus, to a series of medical examination has gone unheeded.

Withdrawal syndrome

BANCO Filipino's real CEO, Albert "Bobby" Aguirre, has lost another key executive. Alfredo Jimenez Jr. has resigned as president of sister company Pilar Development Corp., following the abrupt departure of a son of the late Makati Mayor Nemesio Yabut, Ricardo, as Pilar Development's executive vice president and treasurer.

According to the grapevine, the resignation of Ricky Yabut is even more painful since he was a longtime polo buddy of Bobby.

On the plus side, former SEC Chair Perfecto Yasay Jr. has agreed to represent the billionaire banker-polo player in his fight to foreclose on Aguirre's younger and only sister, Nanette, and keep Nanette's American husband forever banned from the Philippines.

Yasay ran for the Senate and lost in the last elections on a pro-woman, anti-corruption platform.

Heard through the grapevine

A BOARDROOM struggle has erupted within the Indonesian-controlled Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp., the Skyway builder, with the fate of its CEO, Cezar Quiambao, hanging in the balance.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

SM Prime Q2 profit up 11%

SM Prime Holdings Inc., the country's leading shopping mall developer and operator, posts P1.07 billion in net income for the three-month ending June 30, 2004.

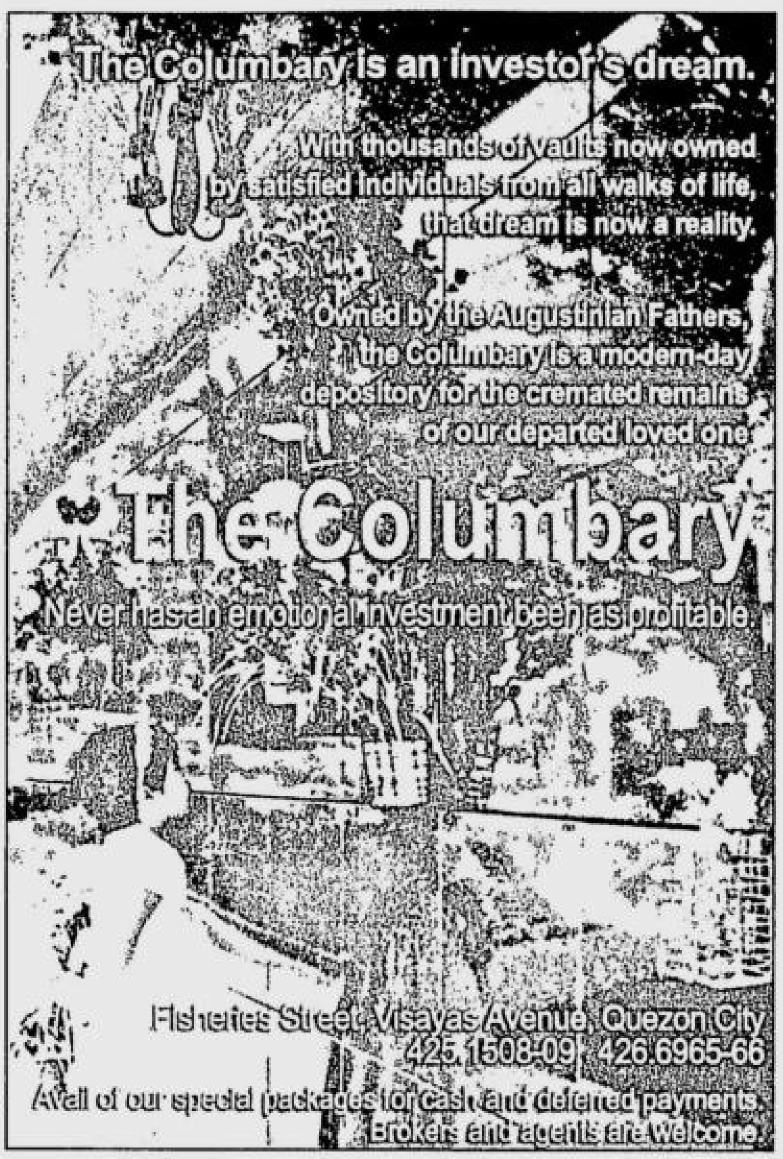
The amount was 11 percent higher than the year-ago level of P963 million. Gross revenue, likewise, rose by 15 percent to P2.59 billion from P2.26 billion in the second quarter of 2003.

Net income for the first half of 2004 reached P2.2 billion, 9 percent more than the year-ago level of P2 billion. Gross revenue in the first half grew 14 percent to P4.92 billion, from last year's P4.30 billion.

Rental revenue worth P3.84 billion accounted for the biggest contribution to total earnings. This was largely due to rentals from three additional SM Supermalls opened in the last quarter of 2003, namely SM City Lucena, SM City Baguio and SM City Marilao.

Cinema and amusement revenues also posted growth, with cinema revenue up by 11 percent, largely due to blockbuster films such as "Harry Potter 3," "The Day After Tomorrow," "Lord of the Rings 3," "Troy," and "The Passion of the Christ."

Set to open within the year is SM City Batangas, located in Batangas City, Batangas. SM City Batangas will have a gross floor area of 71,000 square meters of shopping, dining, and entertainment.



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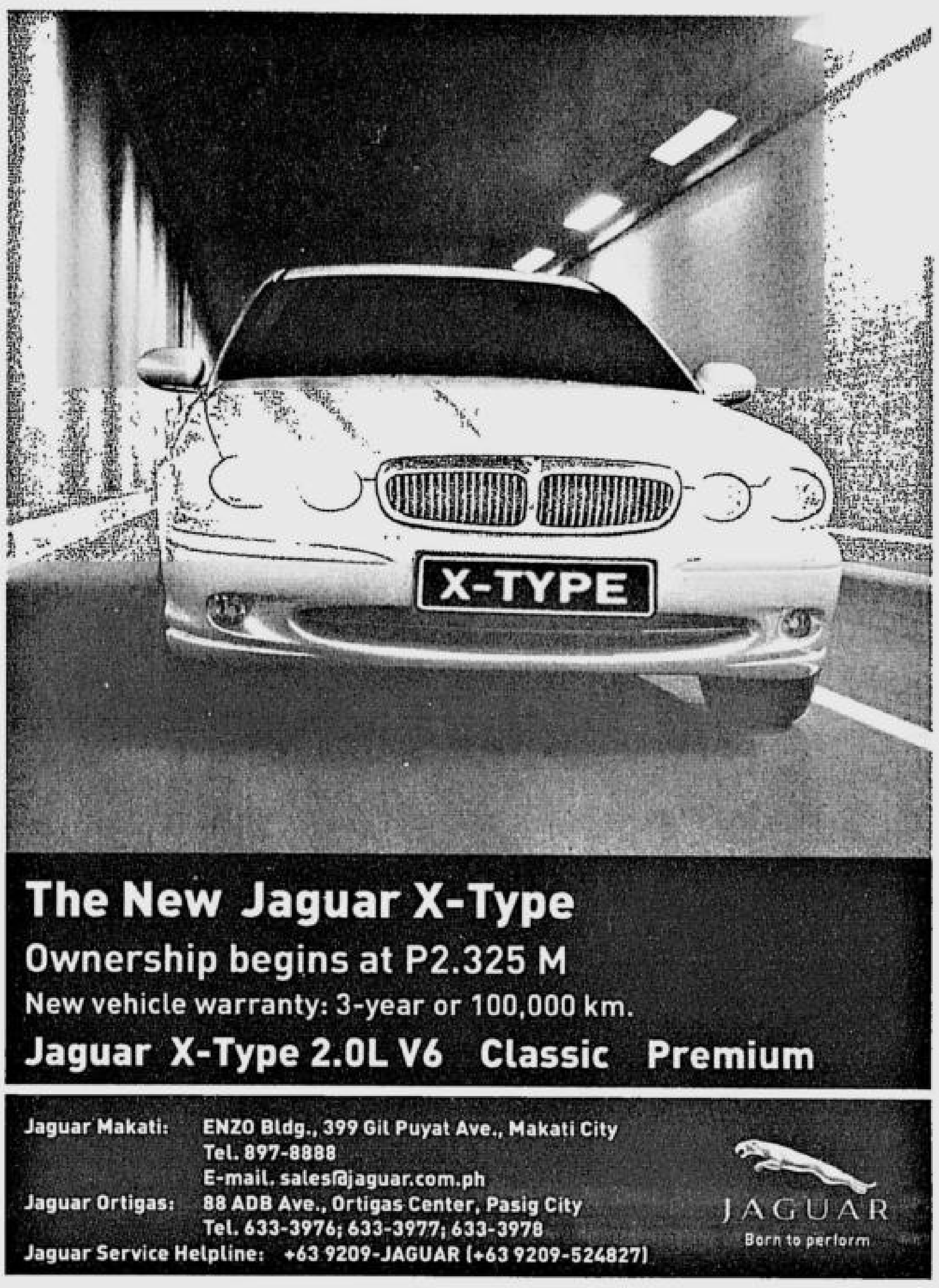

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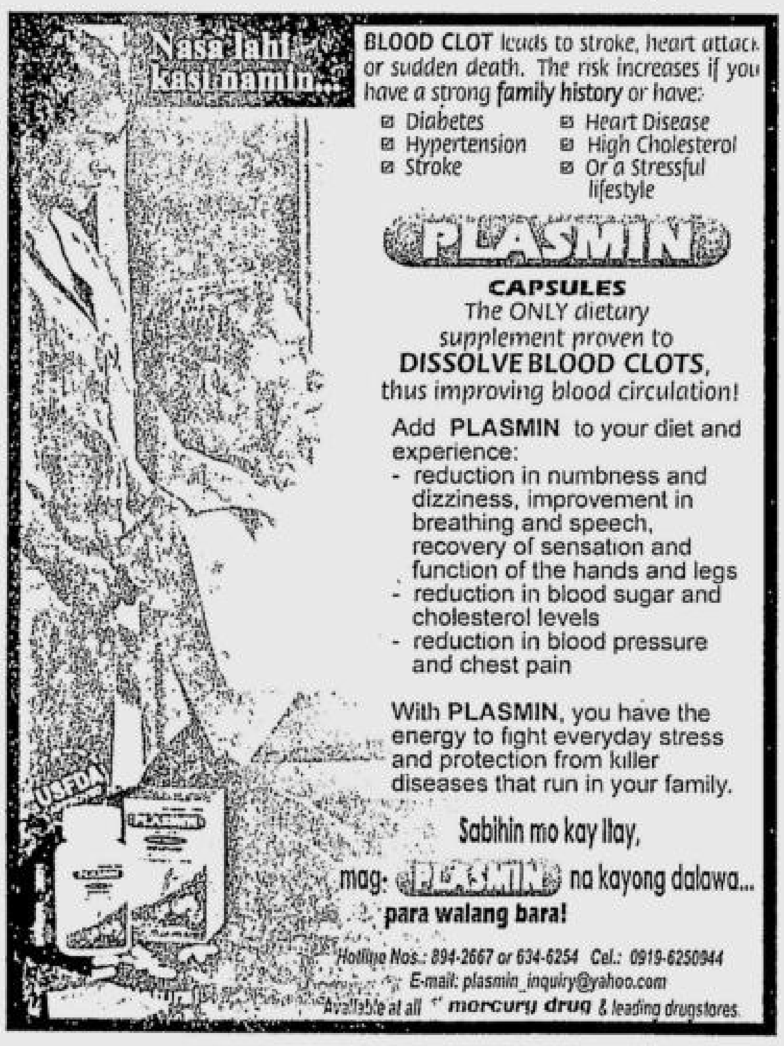

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PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

REGULATORY ISSUANCE NO. 2004 - 01

TO : ALL MEMBER BANKS

SUBJECT : POSTING OF PDIC BULLETIN NO. 2004-04

Pursuant to Sections 4 (g) and 21 (g) of R.A. 3591, otherwise known as the Charter of PDIC, as amended by R.A. 9302, which took effect on August 12, 2004, the Board of Directors of PDIC by virtue of Resolution No. 2004-08-071 dated August 11, 2004, approved the promulgation of the following:

SECTION I. DUTY OF MEMBER BANKS

Within thirty (30) days from effectivity of this Regulatory Issuance (RI), member banks shall post in a conspicuous place within the bank premises PDIC Bulletin No. 2004-04 on the Treatment of Joint Deposit Accounts for Purposes of Deposit Insurance and the Determination of Insured Deposits in Cases Where Depositors have Obligations with the Closed Bank.

SECTION II. PENALTIES/SANCTIONS

Non-compliance with, or violation of, this RI shall subject the bank, its directors, officers and employees to the penalties provided for under Section 21 (g) of R.A. 3591, as amended by R.A. 9302.

SECTION III. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

If any provision of this RI or the application thereof to any person and/or banking institution is declared invalid for whatever reason, the other provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION IV. EFFECTIVITY

This RI shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

(Sgd.) RICARDO M. TAN
President and Chief Executive Officer

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

DETERMINATION OF INSURED DEPOSITS

In determining the insured amount, the outstanding balance of each account is adjusted, such that interests are updated, withholding taxes are deducted, accounts maintained by a depositor in the same right and capacity are added together, and whenever applicable, unpaid loans and other obligations of the depositor are deducted. In no case shall insured deposit exceed P250,000.

A joint account regardless of whether the conjunction "and", "or" or "and/or" is used, shall be insured separately from an individually own deposit account.

Illustrative Cases Applying the
New Maximum Deposit Insurance Cover of P250,000

Single Depositor Account

Case 1: How much is the effective insurance coverage if Angelo Ramos has the following deposit accounts under his name in the closed ABCD Bank?

	Account Type		Balance
Acct #1	Savings Account	P	180,000
Acct #2	Checking Account		50,000
Acct #3	Time Deposit		70,000
Total deposits		P	300,000
Insured deposits			*250,000*
Uninsured deposits			50,000

Explanation: The three accounts are owned by one person, Angelo Ramos. Thus, all accounts will be consolidated or added together as they are maintained in the same right and capacity, regardless of account type. Total amount insured cannot exceed P250,000.

In trust for (ITF) and By Accounts

Case 2: How much will the effective insurance coverage be if Dave, Diane and Danny Santos have the following accounts in the closed EFGH Bank?

	Account Holder/s		Balance
Acct #1	Dave Santos	P	280,000
Acct #2	Dave Santos ITF Danny Santos		260,000
Acct #3	Dave Santos by Diane Santos		290,000

Dave Santos		
Acct #1	P	280,000
Acct #3		290,000
Total deposits	P	570,000
Insured deposits		*250,000*
Uninsured deposits		320,000

Danny Santos		
Acct #2	P	260,000
Total deposits	P	260,000
Insured deposits		*250,000*
Uninsured deposits		10,000

DIANE SANTOS : NONE

Explanation: Dave Santos is the principal owner of Accounts #1 and #3. Thus, these 2 accounts will be consolidated as they are maintained in the same right and capacity, and insurance is up to P250,000 only. On the other hand, Account #2 is owned by Danny Santos with Dave Santos acting as agent. Danny Santos is thus entitled to a separate maximum limit of P250,000.

Joint Account

Case 3: How much is the insurance coverage if Karla, Karen and Kyla Reyes have the following accounts in the closed IJKL Bank?

	Account Holder/s		Balance
Acct #1	Karen & Kyla Reyes	P	400,000
Acct #2	Karla &/or Karen Reyes		650,000

Karen Reyes	Insured Share	Uninsured Deposits
Acct #1	P 125,000	P 75,000
Acct #2	125,000	200,000
		P 275,000
Total deposits	P 250,000	
Insured deposits	*250,000*	

Karla Reyes	Insured Share	Uninsured Deposits
Acct #2	P 125,000	P 200,000
Total deposits	P 125,000	
Insured deposits	*125,000*	

Kyla Reyes	Insured Share	Uninsured Deposits
Acct #1	P 125,000	P 75,000
Total deposits	P 125,000	
Insured deposits	*125,000*	

Explanation: For deposits in excess of P250,000, the amount shared by the co-depositor is only MDIC of the account, thus for Account #1, the share of Karen is P125,000, likewise for Kyla.

Under the new rules for joint ownership, each joint account is considered equally shared among co-depositors unless otherwise indicated in the deposit document. Insurance coverage of P250,000 will apply to the sum of shares of a depositor in the insured portion of each joint account.

Institutional Account

Case 4: How much is the insurance coverage given the following accounts in the closed MNOP Bank?

	Account Holder		Balance
Acct #1	Mamamia, Inc.	P	600,000
Acct #2	Mamamia, Inc. &/or Jiang Yu		800,000

Mamamia Inc.		
Acct #1	P	600,000
Acct #2		800,000
Jiang Yu : NONE		
Total deposits	P	1,400,000
Insured deposits		*250,000*
Uninsured deposits		1,150,000

Explanation: Joint accounts held by a juridical person with natural person will be presumed to belong to the juridical person. Thus, Accounts #1 and #2 will be consolidated. Total amount of insured deposits will be P250,000.

Regulatory Issuances and Bulletins pertaining to R.A. 9302 are posted at the PDIC website, www.pdic.gov.ph

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Estate of the late Natividad G. Granados was extrajudicially settled among her heirs by means of public instruments duly authenticated by the Consul of the Republic of the Philippines in New York, New York, USA under Doc. No. 006420 & 006667, Series of 2003; the Consul of the Republic of the Philippines in San Francisco, California, USA under Doc. No. 8153, Page No. 0160, Book No. XXIV-A, Series of 2003; and the Consul General of the Republic of the Philippines in Washington; District of Columbia, USA under Doc. No. A3996 & A3701, Series of 2003.

ATTY. DANIEL G. DATUIN
Attorney-in-fact
Heirs of Natividad G. Granados

(PDI--Aug. 13 & 20 & 27, 2004)

DAR

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

The Bidding and Awards Committee of the Department of Agrarian Reform is inviting all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the production and delivery of office uniforms for DAR officials and rank and file employees nationwide.

Instruction to Bidders can be secured starting **August 16, 2004** from the Office of the Chief, General Services Division, located at the basement, DAR main building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, upon payment of the non refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00). The Approved Budget Contract is P65,000,000.00.

Terms, conditions and specifications will be discussed during the pre-bidding conference on **August 30, 2004** at HRD Conference Room, 9:00 o'clock in the morning.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any of all bids, waive any formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal is the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid.

DAR also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that any award will be made.

(Sgd.) **TEDDIE ELSON E. RIVERA**
Undersecretary
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Aug. 13 & 20, 2004)

AUCTION

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UNUSED GENERATING SETS; ELECTRICALS; HAND/POWER TOOLS; MATERIALS HANDLING; OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT; ETC.

ON: Tuesday 17th August 2004 - 10:30 A.M. Sharp

UNUSED GENERATING SETS - NISSHA NES25 25 KVA, KUBOTA 15 KVA; (4) SHINKOBE 6.5 KVA; (2) DENYO Portable Generating Sets
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HAND/POWER TOOLS - Socket Wrench Sets; Hacksaws; Hydraulic Pipe Bender; HITACHI Electric Jack Hammers; MIKASA Plate Compactors; etc.
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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the following personnels are no longer connected with **NET SHIP MANAGEMENT INC.**

Editha N. Corro
Ma. Teresita A. Evangelista
Imelda S. Tria

Any transaction entered by them in behalf of the company shall not be honored.

This is as per POEA requirement.

NET SHIP MANAGEMENT INC.

(PDI--Aug. 13, 2004)

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
P.O. Box 789 Manila, Philippines
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel. 632-4231; Fax No. (632) 636-2567

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY

HQ/WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

(Contract ADB/OAS-2004/051)

1. The Asian Development Bank ("ADB"), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites experienced interested companies to apply for pre-qualification in the bidding for HQ/Web Site Development Project at ADB Building, No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines.
2. The web development team is expected to provide maintenance support in updating the contents of the site. The services shall include providing technical support in developing new innovations and features that will make ADB's external web site a leading-edge site. The team will also manage and maintain the technical operations of both ADB Institutional web site and ADB's Media Center. The scope of services is provided in detail in the Work Performance Statement to be given to interested applicants.
3. Applications for prequalification will only be entertained from companies meeting the following criteria:
    i. The applicant must have a legal existence as a validly registered company for a minimum of five (5) years, or it may also be a joint partnership, provided each partner to the partnership has a legal existence as a validly registered company for a minimum of five (5) years;
    ii. The applicant must have extensive experience in the field of web site development and/or similar services for no less than five (5) years and have done similar projects for the last five (5) years in the Philippines;
    iii. The applicant must have a cumulative revenue derived from operations and maintenance services of at least Philippine Pesos 10,000,000 for the last three (3) years;
    iv. The applicant must have a generally sound financial and credit position;
    v. The applicant is not under a declaration or record of ineligibility for corrupt and/or fraudulent practices issued or kept by ADB.
4. Prequalification documents may be obtained from Contracts Administration, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 4219 North, at the above address, from **16-18 August 2004** on any working day (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), or call 632-4231 or 632-4452; fax number (632) 636-2567, email address: dmunoz@adb.org.
5. Applicants will be required to submit two copies (marked "Original" and "Copy") of applications for prequalification each in a sealed envelope, which must be delivered either by hand or by registered mail addressed to the attention of the Head, Contracts Administration, Room 4223 N, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Asian Development Bank, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines, not later than **4:00 p.m. on 31 August 2004**, and be clearly marked "Application to Pre-qualify for HQ/Web Site Development Project".
6. The successful applicant/bidder will be given a contract which shall be for one year and thereafter ADB has the option to renew the contract every year for a maximum of five years.
7. Invitation to bid will be issued to pre-qualified applicants who pass the minimum prequalification criteria and evaluated as pre-qualified by considering the evaluation criteria, which will be verified by the site inspections.
8. Only pre-qualified companies will be contacted and issued bidding documents. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any application for prequalification, and to postpone issuance of bidding documents.
9. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of the application for prequalification shall be borne solely by the applicant.

(Sgd.) CECILE L.H.F. GREGORY
Chairperson
Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

(PDI–August 13 & 14, 2004)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee – Head Office, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites BSP/G-EPS registered companies/contractors and other interested suppliers to a public bidding for:

One (1) year contract for the supply of manpower, equipment, tools and supplies for the servicing and maintenance of landscaped areas at the BSP Main Building Complex per BSP scope of work and other special terms and conditions

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC): P2,901,931.92

Bid documents are available from **06 August 2004 to 20 August 2004** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **P1,500.00** at the following:

BAC Secretariat
Rm. 212, 2nd Floor, 5-Story Building
cor. A. Mabini and P. Ocampo Sr. Sts., Malate, Manila
Tel. No(s). 523-6427

Pre-bid Conference Date and Time: **27 AUGUST 2004 at 10:00 a.m.**
Bidding Date and Time: **01 SEPTEMBER 2004 at 10:00 A.M.**
Place . **Room MR2A, 2nd Floor, 5-Story Building, BSP Main Complex, Malate, Manila**

Interested bidders shall submit not later than the bidding date and time the following documents in three (3) separate envelopes:

Envelope No. 1:

1. Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers
2. Y2003 Audited Financial Statements (Income Statement & Balance Sheet)
3. Y2003 Income Tax Return
4. Taxpayer's Identification Number
5. Valid and Current Mayor's Permit/Municipal License
6. Prospective bidder's computation for its Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) which shall be at least eqeal to the ABC, duly signed by the authorized signing official and supported with pertinent documents, i.e., financial statements and copies of on-going project contracts; or a commitment from a licensed bank to extend to it a credit line if awarded the contract to be bid, or a cash deposit certificate in an amount not lower than 10% of the ABC. The NFCC shall be computed as follows: NFCC = [(Current assets – Current liabilities) (K)] minus value of all outstanding projects; K = 10
7. Duly notarized statement that the firm is not blacklisted from bidding in any Government Office, Agency, Corporation
8. Letter authorizing the BAC or its duly authorized representative to verify any or all of the documents submitted for eligibility check
9. Duly notarized certification by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative that each of the documents submitted is an original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original
10. Sworn affidavit of the bidder that he or she or any officer of their corporation is not related to

Envelope No. 2:

1. Instructions to Bidders
2. Duly accomplished Certification/ Undertaking
3. Original Bid Security

Envelope No. 3:

Price Proposal with attached cost breakdown

All envelopes shall be dropped in bid box located at Room MR2A, 5-Story Building, BSP Main Complex. **LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

The BSP assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) Ma. **DOLORES B. YUVIENCO**
Chairperson

(PDI–August 13, 2004)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Pananalapi
Kawanihan ng Rentas Internas
Quezon City

June 3, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the re-bidding of the following:

I. Name of Project : Lease of Two (2) Production Servers for Integrated Tax System
Location of the Project : Manila, Makati and Quezon City
Approved Budget : P 14,580,000.00
Contract Duration : October 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004
Source of Funding : BIR's Appropriations

II. Name of Project : Lease of Integrated Tax System Storage and Automated Tape Library
Location of the Project : Manila, Makati and Quezon City
Approved Budget : P 729,000.00
Contract Duration : October 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004
Source of Funding : BIR's Appropriations

All interested parties may get the bidding documents from the BAC Secretariat, c/o Procurement Division at Room 605, 6th floor, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City starting **August 16, 2004**, upon payment of non-refundable fee of:

Project I - P 3,000.00
Project II - P 500.00

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **August 27, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.** at the 3rd Floor, Executive Conference Room, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City.

Deadline for the submission and opening of eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposal shall be on **September 8, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.** at the 3rd Floor, Executive Conference Room, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City, and followed by the opening of the bids.

The criteria to be used by the BIR in the following: (a) eligibility check of prospective bidders; (b) examination and evaluation of bids; and (c) post-qualification, shall be on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis

The BIR assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any excuse or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids most advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC Secretariat, thru the Chief, Procurement Division at Room 605, 5th floor, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone nos. 926-55-47, 926-65-38 and 926-20-26 (fax); or e-mail us at nelly.ibo@bir.gov.ph until September 7, 2004.

(Sgd.) **MILAGROS V. REGALADO**
Assistant Commissioner-Legal Service
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Aug. 13, 2004)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to notify the public that our **Provisional Receipts (PR) booklet with PR Series Numbers 35951-36000** was lost and will be cancelled immediately.

Please report unauthorized use of the receipts to the Management of Forest Lake.

Our Official Receipt booklet with series number **111501 - 111550** was also lost in transit. If you are a holder of these official receipts, kindly present it to our office at Luciana Commercial complex, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna or call (049) 4110614 / (02) 5208247 for proper recording.

Forest Lake Management

(PDI--Aug. 13, 2004)

OFW remittances surged by 19.4% to $706M in June

By Doris C. Dumlao

DOLLARS remitted by overseas Filipino workers surged by 19.4 percent in June to $706 million from a year ago, reversing the contractions seen in the past two months.

Philippine banks have beefed up offshore money transfer operations, resulting in a six-month high remittance of $4 billion—2.6 percent better than the level during the same period last year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

Amando Tetangco Jr., BSP officer-in-charge, said the favorable first-semester OFW remittances had fueled greater optimism that the projected 6 percent growth in remittances for the full year would be met.

The BSP earlier doubled its projected annual growth in OFW remittances this year to 6 percent from the earlier forecast of 3 percent, due to a combination of higher incomes and deployment. In nominal terms, the year's target amounted to $8.2 billion.

"The double-digit growth in remittances in June was largely attributed to the aggressive marketing efforts of domestic commercial banks to reach out to a greater number of (overseas) Filipino workers by establishing new remittance centers abroad, promoting 'on-line' remittance to facilitate inward transfers, as well as strengthening and widening tie-ups with financial institutions in host economies," Tetangco explained.

Among the local banks that recently announced an expansion in their remittances business were Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Equitable PCI Bank and Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

"The growth in the deployment of OFWs, particularly in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates, also contributed to the surge in remittances during the period," Tetangco said.

Citing data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Tetangco said the total number of deployed Filipino workers grew by 9.2 percent to 501,713 during the first semester compared to last year's volume.

Increased fund transfers from Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, United Arab Emirates and the United States had offset the decline in remittances from other labor partner countries like Japan and the United Kingdom.

Overall, the US, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong and Japan continue to be the major sources of remittance flows to the country.

Building on success

From page B2

resentatives of farmers and fisherfolk in all agriculture-related agencies of government.

He also applied management techniques, such as offering performance-based incentive pay for 17,000 devolved workers instead of the automatic standard pay. This was instrumental in achieving the 4.3 percent average agricultural growth rate for 2001 and 2002.

Despite the P260M budget cut in the rice program that followed, certified seed usage increased from 700,000 hectares in 2000 to 1.5 million hectares in 2001, resulting in a record palay harvest of 12.9 million tons.

Meanwhile, Lorenzo provided the business emphasis needed in agriculture. He created agriculture commodity boards, involving agriculture business leaders, that drew up and implemented road maps to supplement the previous agriculture master plans.

For rice, Lorenzo increased the usage of hybrid seeds from 50,000 to 100,000 hectares in 2003. The yield of hybrid farmers increased from 4.5 to 6.5 tons per hectare, and their income from P15,000 to P31,000.

When the new DA secretary starts next week, he must follow the lessons learned by the three secretaries prior to him. The three men have achieved sustainable agriculture growth, doubling the growth rate in the 1990s.

The new agriculture chief should also work with Congress to acquire a budget close to the P32.5 billion mandated by the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act, rather than the current P15 billion.

Also, he should increase the emphasis on local government leadership, involve more farmers and fisherfolk, and provide them with a stronger business perspective to turn them into successful entrepreneurs.

Most importantly, he should lay to rest the fears of farmers like Ka Elvie by building on, rather than reinventing, the agriculture wheel to bring about the desired future for our country.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry, and former chair and Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatch-phil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635)

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BMW 316i 2003 Titanium Silver, 17,000km, P1,550,000	**BMW 318i Exec.** 2003 Oxford Green, 26,000km, P2,100,000	**BMW 318i Exec.** 2004 Titanium Silver, 912km, P2,250,000	**BMW 325i Exec.** 2002 Black Sapphire, 22,942km, P2,200,000	**BMW 530d Exec.** 2004 Black Sapphire, 7,279km, P4,350,000
BMW 316i 2004 Titanium Silver, 289km, P1,650,000	**BMW 318i Exec.** 2004 Orient Blue, 5,947km, P2,200,000	**BMW 318i Exec.** 2004 Black Sapphire, 6km, P2,300,000	**BMW 325i Exec.** 2004 Titanium Silver, 13,000km, P2,650,000	**BMW 525i Exec.** 2004 Mystic Blue, 1,000km, P4,400,000
BMW 318i Limo. 2002 Orient Blue, 29,000km, P1,450,000	**BMW 318i Exec.** 2004 Titanium Silver, 5,000km, P2,200,000	**BMW 318i MSport** 2004 Titanium Silver, 16km, P2,500,000	**BMW 525i Exec.** 2003 Titanium Silver, 1,635km, P2,980,000	**BMW X5 3.0d Exec.** 2004 Toledo Blue, 8,500km, P4,600,000

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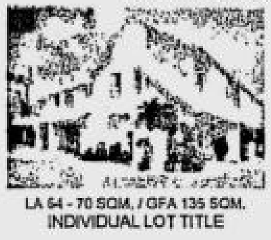
QUEZON CITY

QUEZON CITY

JUBILEE VILLAS



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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

PASIG

PRIME PROPERTY
418sqm 5Dr 2Sty Apt. infmt of Pamantasan ng Lunsod ng Pasig 09189422422•09178212826

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

MKT NR AYALA Bnew Twnhse /3stry/3br/2-2 1/2tb/grge P3.285M up 8903461 loc 34

MANILA

Singalong Manila BnewTwnhse /3stry/3br/maid's rm1-2grgo P3.960M up 8903461 loc. 34

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.8M 9487112

PASIG

C. GRANDE ORTIGAS 5BR 5TB FA-300M² P5.5M T655-3561

Capitol 8 4br 0917-5213838

QUEZON CITY

NR EASTWOOD LIBIS
5BR 4TB LA400 FA320 famly rm corner 12M nego 9120312

Nr Ateneo 4.8m² & Up Build as per Specs Call 645-3731

P499T/Unit Sunny Villas Condo hr Cmnwealth 30/60M² P4730/mo 8179650/9750-09192302120

Proj.8 2Story S.Pool 1028sqm Theresa • 456-7356

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FRONTING XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL
0919-8883585 / 721-2166

BULACAN

Sta Maria 225T 09196499406

LAGUNA

Technopark 400T 09276438231

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8313226

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MKT NR AYALA Bnew Twnhse /3stry/3br/2-2 1/2tb/grge P3.285M up 8903461 loc 34

•PACIFIC PLAZA FORT other condos Sale/Lease 776-6802

MANILA

Nr UST 3.8M 4br 3tb 1cg Bank Loan Ok! 645-3731

SN ANDRES MANILA Bnew Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.355M up 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

Bnew, 1,2&3 bdrms, RFO, 4 Rent Units Avail. 09192189817

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO P1.5M 5YRS TO PAY No Interest Move-In 9126976

Eastwood City 634-1212

SAN JUAN

Quadrillion Mansion N. Domingo 1BR condo 69.26m² 4121825

LOT

MANDALUYONG

Edsa 400m² Hi Density Highly Comm'l Pls. Call 645-3731

PASIG

Rosario 1500 / 3000m² Wide Rd Nice Call 645-3731

RIZAL

GREEN RIDGE BINANGOAN 150sqm 2900/sqm 928-1568 NEG.

CAVITE

KAWIT 349m² 286m² 8424213

LAGUNA

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LA 175m² & Up at P3,750/m² 30% D/P Bal. 3 Yrs to pay at 0% adjacent U.P. Los Banos Call: 842-9877 • Cell 0927-2946992

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

MANILA

PEDRO GIL cor. MEDEL
Highly Comm Xcelent Loc. Bank Resto w/Parking 633-6095 • 633-6167 Jo

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG FUND) is inviting Contractors/Suppliers to a public bidding for the following requirements:

Qty.	Particulars	Agency Budget Ceiling	Cost of Bid Documents (Non-Refundable)	Schedule of Pre-Bid Conference
301 sets	Desktop Computers (Cat. 2B)	P 16,254,000.00	P 3,000.00	Aug. 25, 2004 1:30 pm
67 units	Laptop Computers	P 5,628,000.00	P 1,000.00	Aug. 27, 2004 1:30 pm

Eligibility Requirements, Terms of Reference and Bid forms may be obtained from the Procurement Section, Task Force-General Services at Rm. 704, 7th Floor, The Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Ave., Makati City starting **August 16, 2004.**

Submission of Eligibility Requirements & opening of bids which will be conducted at Rm. 602, 6th Floor, HDMF Multi-Purpose Hall. The Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Ave., Makati City is tentatively scheduled, as follows:

Particulars	Date – Time
Desktop Computers (Cat. 2B)	September 8, 2004 – 1:30 p.m.
Laptop Computers	September 10, 2004 – 1:30 p.m.

The HDMF reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality or accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government. Further, the HDMF assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses or losses that may be incurred in participating in this bidding.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Mr. Cesar V. Racoma/Mr. Nazario U. Benedicto at 811-42-62, 811-42-79 or visit our Corporate Website at http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph or e-mail us at hdmfgpis@info.com.ph.

(Sgd.) EMMALINDA B. FARIA
Senior Vice President, Technical Support Group
Chair, BAC-GS

(PDI–August 13 & 20, 2004)

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY

RETIRO Cor. CORDILLERA
Highly Comm Xcelent Loc. Bank Resto with Parking 633-6095 • 633-6167 Jo

HOUSE

PASIG

3br w/Grge 0920-6193853 9008021

OTHER AREAS

Tagaytay:Euro leaving wkend Bnew hse 1.25 min frm Mla 896-6904

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

TWNHSE/3 UNITS/3FLRS/4BRS MULTI-USE: OFC/CLNC/RES/ 1103 DEL PAN ST. MKTI W/GRGE 872-3425 0916-3135877

PARANAQUE

WESTMONT-Sucat 1BR+Prkg front Clubhse •0927-2107234•

PASIG

ORTIGAS CTR 1BR 4121825

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

1BR Condo 20th Floor RENAISSANCE 3000 Ortigas Area 724-9330 • 724-9328

QUEZON CITY

Nr Quezon Blvd Studio P3.5T 3738989 / 4563754 / 9317159

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2BR 2BATH #4455 Montojo St. Pasong Tamo Mkti Tel# 2412776-8438674

4456 Montojo St Bgy Singkamas, La Paz Mkti Carina Garcia 243-4445

QUEZON CITY

COM'L APTS
1) Ermin Garcia St. Near Aurora Blvd.
2) Forest Hills Dr QC
RESD'L APTS
1) DN Drive, Talipapa km away from Makro
374-3637 / 374-4265

Residential apts 4 rent studio type accessible 2 all points affordable West Kamias 9254841 / 4356336

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

FOR LEASE

FOR LEASE TOWNHOMES nr GREENHILLS 3BRS w/attic maids room 4TB H&C H2O P25T monthly DET or ROLAND 3720895

WANTED TO LEASE

LA LOMA 800m² 09174061980

ROOM & BOARD

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

Nr Chinese Gen 7118679

Proj3 lady 3T studio 9137513

Sucat Pque 8257524/24hrs

BEDSPACE

Resdn'l/Furnish 2PerRm Male Single Bed T897-3770

BUSINESS RENTAL

AYALA AVE 8181696/7586

Dr Clinic, Ofc space, Spa / Barber 9291235 near Congresional QC

Res/Ofc 6319771 / 6349500

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BUSINESS RENTAL

Grocery, Rice, Poultry Store Canteen 9291235 Edsa QC

Dental Clinic For Sale/Lease Rm224 Atrium Bldg Makati •811-4071/823-6047•

RESORT LEASE/ RENT

Pansol Hot Spring priv 7767507

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HOUSE & LOT

Villages Many Sale/Rent 7766802

More Classified Ads on Page B6

Manila Memorial Park
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OBITUARIES

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Mortuary
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"For God so loved the World, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life."

—John 3:16

The Missionary Sisters
Servants of the Holy Spirit

Announce the death of

SISTER MARY STEPHEN, S.Sp.S.

(NORA FULGUERAS)

on August 11, 2004 at the age of 66 at the Convent of the Holy Spirit, Quezon City.

Mass of the Resurrection will be offered on Saturday, August 14, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

At the Convent of the Holy Spirit, 8 Poinsettia Road, Quezon City.

Interment will follow at the Christ the King Cemetery, E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City.

RUFINO "RAFFY" BELEN

Passed away in the Grace of Our Lord on August 12, 2004 at the age of 56.

His bereaved family **Domingo L. Lupdan** and son **Raphael Dominic Belen**; other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at his residence at Amado Compound, Brgy. Banaba, San Mateo, Rizal.

Interment will be on August 15, 2004 at Paraiso Memorial Park, San Mateo, Rizal after the 9:00 o'clock a.m. Mass at his residence.

HERMINIO I. GONZALES

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on August 10, 2004 at the age of 76.

His bereaved wife **Cely V. Santos**; children **Maricel, Cora & Diony, Junie, Monique & Andrew**; grandchild **Liezcel**; other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Q.C.

Interment will be on August 14, 2004 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park (Novaliches) after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Arlington.

Message of Thanks

For visiting us and being with us in our time of sorrows...
For praying with us, and for us...
For the Mass cards and messages of sympathy and condolence...
For the beautiful flowers to express compassion...
For joining us in our nightly vigils...
For attending the Masses and funeral rites...
For thinking of us in our hour of grief...
For all that you have done to console our hearts...

Our sincerest gratitude.

From the family of the late

Dr. Jose Alviz Lansang, Sr.

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 4, 2004 at the age of 81.

JOSEFA (PING) RAMOS DELA RAMA

Died in the Grace of our Lord on August 11, 2004 at the age of 73.

Her bereaved family, husband **HORACIO**; parents **EMERITO & SUSANA RAMOS** (†);

Children

JOJO & MITA
MARIJO & MJ MENDOZA
MARICAR
FR. SALTY DELA RAMA, S.J.
SUSIELOU
NOEL

Grandchildren

MIGGY, ANINA, RAMON (†), GAEL & JOAQUIN

Brothers & Sisters

JUNIOR & NIT RAMOS
TONY & CHINKIE RAMOS
MENIE & RUDY LEDESMA
VIC & TOTI TANJUATCO
BABY (†) & MARIE RAMOS
BOY & LILETTE RAMOS
SUSIE & JOHNNY MONTERMOSO

Other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence, Vista Valley Court, #1 Alta Vista, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Sunday, August 15, 2004 at the Loyola Memorial Park Crematory, Marikina, after the 2:30 p.m. Mass at the Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish, Katipunan Avenue.

In lieu of flowers, Donations to the Arayat Institute or Poor Claire Federation of the Philippines will be highly appreciated.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

CLASSIFIEDS

Yellow and green colors convey messages

THREE hundred four dealers and sub-dealers of Farmer's Edge joined the nationwide competition, "Dress-Up Your AgriPost 2004" (DUYAP 2K4). This ingenious competition aims to introduce and promote FARMER'S EDGE. It also aspires to strengthen the relationship with its customers, build awareness with its new line of products, and to sell.

The AgriPosts who joined the competition were required to install their own testimonial boards where prospect buyers and raisers would see the satisfaction of Farmer's Edge hog raisers. Testimonial boards also state the quality of the products and let target customers be aware of the experiences of those who already tested the product. Product displays on one hand, let customers know on how the company sustains her quality, worth, and excellence in terms of producing competitive feeds. The different kinds of portfolios, brochures, posters, buntings, flyers, banners, and other points of purchase materials were also allocated to the AgriPosts in order for them to make their stores' appearances more attractive, informative, and interesting. Yellow and green colors were used to convey absolute messages to the passers-by and regular customers-that the store sells products of Fil-Am Foods and that they are secured with the quality. Creativity and resourcefulness are also of big factor in making it at the top of the competition. The store has to standout above others.

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.
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www.jobmarketonline.com

NFA implements farmers' buy-back program

KIDAPAWAN CITY - Aside from the assurance of getting their rice requirement for the lean months, the National Food Authority in North Cotabato said the farmers in their area now have the opportunity to maximize their earnings with the intensified reimplementation of the program Farmers Option to Buy Back (FOBB).

North Cotabato NFA provincial manager Fernando Nuñez said the FOBB program primarily addresses the problems besetting the farmers including their lack of or limited marketing and entrepreneurial skills, lack of post harvest facilities for the storage of their produce, limited access to credit, and the urgent need for cash which forces them to sell their palay produce right after harvest at a low price.

A minimum deposit is 100 bags for individual farmers and 500 bags for farmers organizations is required to qualify to join the program.

Nuñez informed that under the FOBB, individual farmers and farmers' organizations selling their palay to NFA are allowed to buy-back almost the same volume of stock within six months or one cropping period.

Farmers are also allowed to a partial withdrawal of stocks up to two times within the buy back period, according to Nuñez. Failing to withdraw within the prescribed period forfeits the farmers' option to buy back their produce in favor of NFA, he said.

Nuñez said that farmers wanting to join the program can deliver their palay in four area offices located at Kidapawan terminal warehouse, Mlang, Kabacan and Baguer, Libungan, North Cotabato.

For more information and mechanics of the program, Nuñez is encouraging the farmers to visit NFA's area offices at Mlang, Baguer, Libungan, North Cotabato and Provincial Office located at Singao, Kidapawan City. They may also call telephone nos. (064) 288-1743/278-4268 and (064) 229-3452.

A beautiful way to do your business
Beauty & Wellness
BUSINESS EXPO 2004
September 24-26, 2004
Megatrade Hall 2, Building B, Level 5,
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Beauty and Wellness Business Expo 2004 is an all business opportunities exhibit focused on the booming industry of beauty and wellness. It aims to be the converging annual event for all professionals, practicing and potential businessmen in the industry.
This is an event where one can:
- *scout for business opportunities available in line with beauty and wellness;*
- *source for best products at its best price;*
- *learn how to start a beauty or wellness entrepreneurial ventures;*
- *seek best services to further develop existing business portfolio;*
- *know the latest trends and innovations in the world of beauty and wellness,*
- *meet the experts in the industry as well as to strengthen network with them.*

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SM raffle promo

THERE are 12 new good reasons to shop in SM Supermalls! Spend on the latest trends, hottest picks and freshest finds in any SM Supermalls nationwide and get a chance to win one of 12 Toyota Vios cars in SM Supermalls' Twelve Car Lucky Raffle Draw. From Aug. 1 to Oct. 31, every P500 single or accumulated purchase receipt from any of SM Supermall's retail, food, and entertainment tenants entitles a customer to one raffle coupon. Entries within the promo period are qualified for the weekly raffle draws. SM Supermalls is located in strategic locations such as North Edsa, Ortigas, Fairview, Manila, Bicutan, Sta. Mesa, Pampanga, Sucat, Las Piñas, Bacoor, Cebu, Dasmariñas, Iloilo, Davao, Cagayan De Oro, Marilao Bulacan, Lucena and Baguio. So hurry. Shop now and be one of the lucky winners of SM Supermalls twelve car lucky raffle draw.

Automatic Centre appliance exhibit

AN APPLIANCE exhibit featuring the latest models of various appliance brands is currently ongoing at the SM Southmall until Aug. 14. This 2-week appliance exhibit at the SM Southmall will be home to top brands like Sony, LG, Samsung, Panasonic, Sharp, Philips, White Westinghouse and other topnotch brands. Expect to be amazed at the wide array of the most advanced appliances like flat TVs, projection TVs, DVDs, DVD mini-components and other home entertainment requirements. There will also be refrigerators, freezers, cooking ranges, microwave ovens and other kitchen appliances at the exhibit. Various brands of washers and dryers, aircons, electric fans and even the hottest cell phones add to the extensive list of products at guaranteed low prices. Automatic Centre has more than 5 decades of unparalleled service to the Filipino people. "We have introduced a lot of firsts to our countrymen," Samie Lim, Automatic Centre president, has said.

All-night party at Tagaytay Highlands

GET READY for an all-night party at the Highlands as the country's premier leisure and sports haven gives you a double treat: the phenomenal Barbie's Cradle and the sultry Silk in one electric folk-meets-country-meets-jazz-meets-pop concert on Aug.14. These two of the country's most sought-after concert acts are all set to rock the place in a show dubbed "Highlands Shindig: All Night Party with Barbie's Cradle and Silk" 9 p.m. at the Summer Garden of Highlands China Palace. Formerly known as the Hungry Young Poets, Barbie's Cradle is the vocal genius behind "Tabing Ilog", the theme song for the hit teen series of the same title. The ultimate party band Silk is composed of three alluring and captivating female beauties with soulful voices able to glide smoothly like, yes, silk from tunes by Geri Halliwell to Destiny's Child, to Janet Jackson, to Jennifer Lopez. Far from being just a golfer's paradise, Tagaytay Highlands community affords members and their families a welcome respite from the urban rat race. For inquiries about the concert, call (046) 413-2033. For membership and other information about the exclusive Highlands developments, call 687-2885.

2nd Tirona clan reunion

EVERYTHING'S set for the Second Tirona Clan Reunion to be held on Sunday, Aug. 15, at the Ballroom of the Orchard Golf & Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite. Conceived two years ago, the reunion seeks to bring together clan members whose origins can be traced directly to the three Tirona patriarchs namely Guillermo, Tomas and Yldefonso. Jess Tirona, this year's reunion chair and president of the Tirona Foundation Inc announced that a program carrying the theme "All Together Now" has been laid out to provide the attendees a wide range of activities the whole day. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m., followed by a Eucharistic Celebration officiated by Most Rev. Bishop Rolando "Rolly" J. Tria Tirona, OCD. The rest of the morning will include a review of the 1st clan reunion in August 2002. All members of the distinguished Tirona clan from Cavite are requested to call 920-1071 (Helen or Blenda).

Essays on women, religion, spirituality

ANVIL Publishing and the Asian Public Intellectual program of the Nippon Foundation will launch "Women, Religion and Spirituality in Asia" by Sr. Mary John Mananzan, OSB, on Aug. 15, 10 a.m. at the Manila International Bookfair at the World Trade Center. Mananzan is the former national chair of Gabriela, former president of St. Scholastica's College and now Prioress of the Missionary Benedictine Sisters in the Manila Priory. She has spearheaded the founding of the Women Crisis Center.

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687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 THE VILLAGE
11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10
8:30, 10:50
GP-13

2 THE CINDERELLA STORY
11:05, 1:15, 3:25, 5:35
7:45, 10:20
GP

3 GARFIELD
10:50, 12:55, 3:10
5:15, 7:25, 10:00
GP

4 COLLATERAL
11:00, 1:40, 4:20
7:00, 10:00
R-13

More movies on page A31 and C3.

THEATRE MALL
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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 CINDERELLA STORY
11:05, 1:20, 3:35, 5:50, 8:05, 10:20
GP
CINEMA 2 THEVILLAGE
11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15
P13
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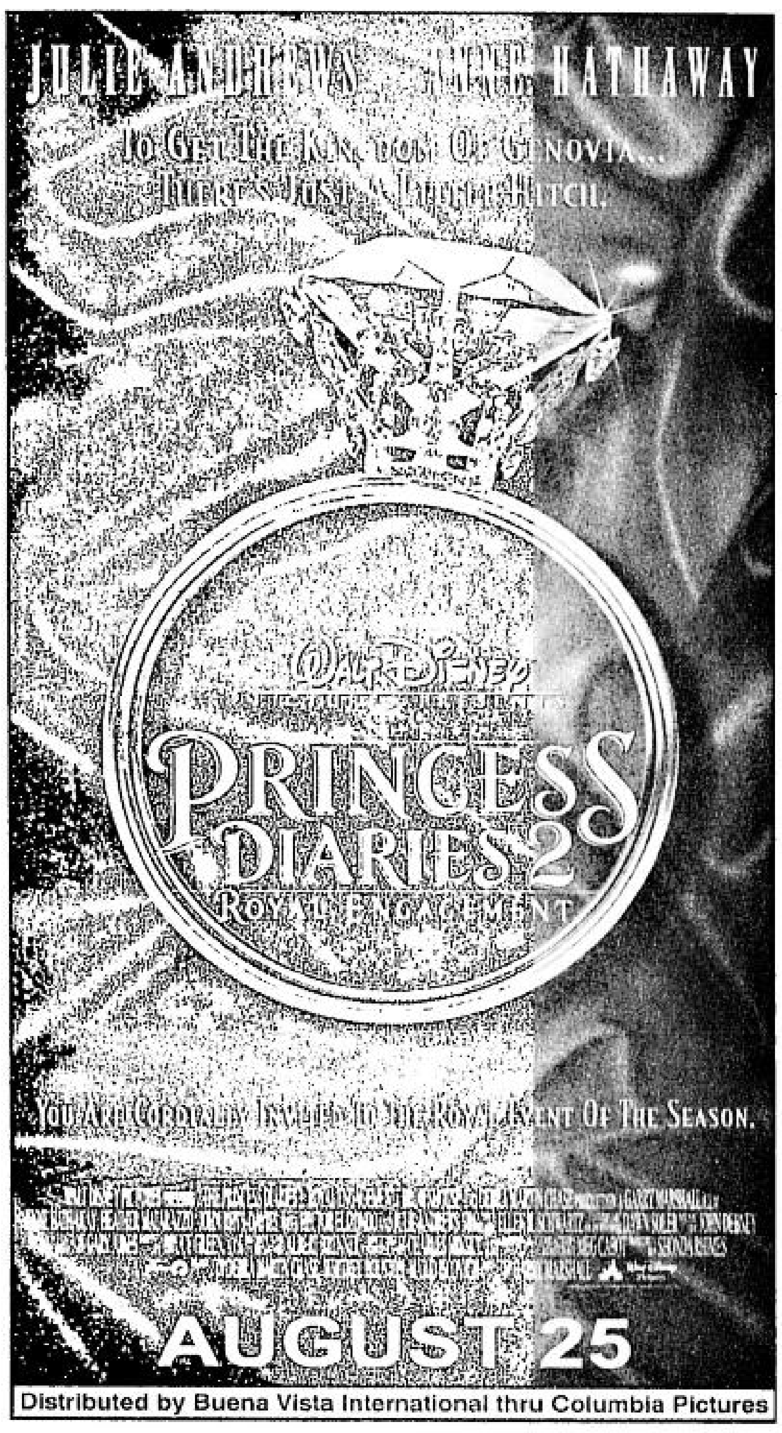
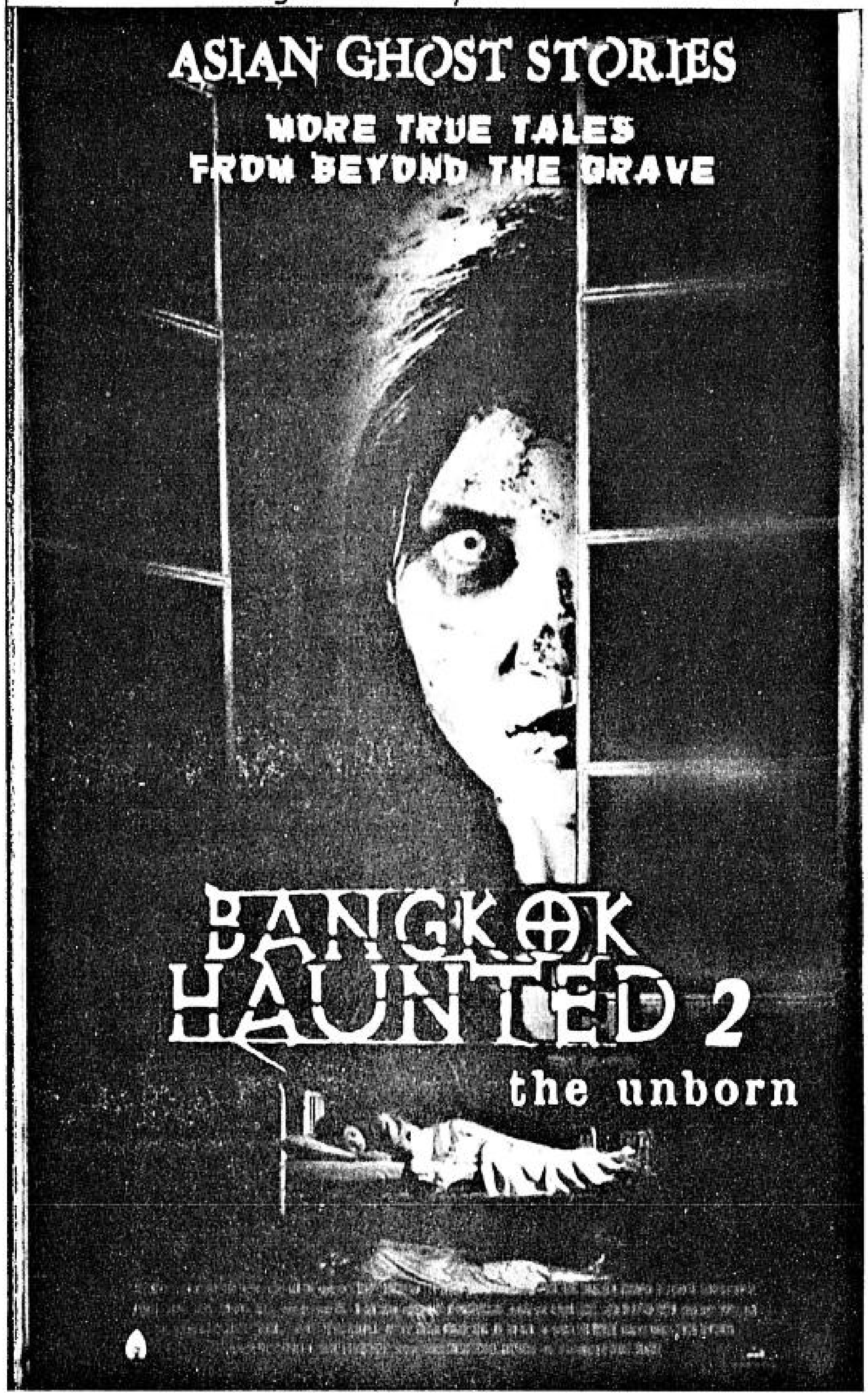
AUG 13-14 20-21 & 27-28 NYOYVOLANTE&NINA 9:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

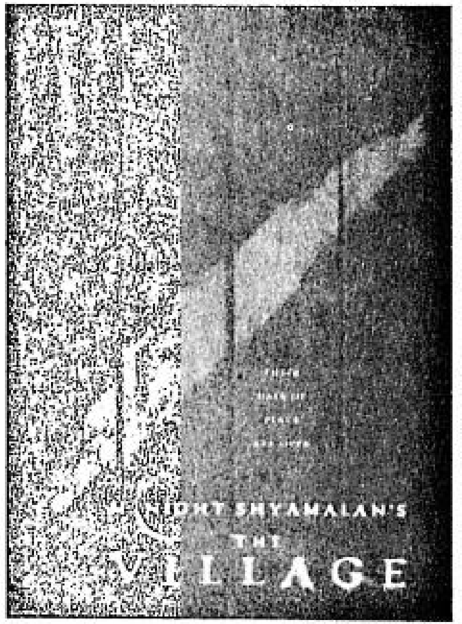

JULIE ANDREWS ANNE HATHAWAY
To Get The Kingdom Of Genovia... There's Just A Little Hitch.
Walt Disney
Princess Diaries 2
Royal Engagement
You Are Cordially Invited To The Royal Event Of The Season.
AUGUST 25

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

OPENS AUGUST 18
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
Don't sleep alone, don't switch off the lights at night,
Real terror begins after you watched this movie.


ASIAN GHOST STORIES
MORE TRUE TALES FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE
BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
the unborn

SM CINEMA
what to watch
HORROR
THE VILLAGE
In 1897, at first glance, the isolated village of Covington, Pennsylvania seems picture perfect, but this close-knit community lives with the frightening knowledge that creatures reside in the surrounding woods. But when curious, headstrong Lucius Hunt (Joaquin Phoenix) plans to step beyond the boundaries of the town and into the unknown, his bold move threatens to forever change the future of the village.
now showing


M. NIGHT SHYAMALAN'S
THE VILLAGE

MTRCB Rating PG 13
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up next

ALIEN vs. PREDATOR
ANACONDAS

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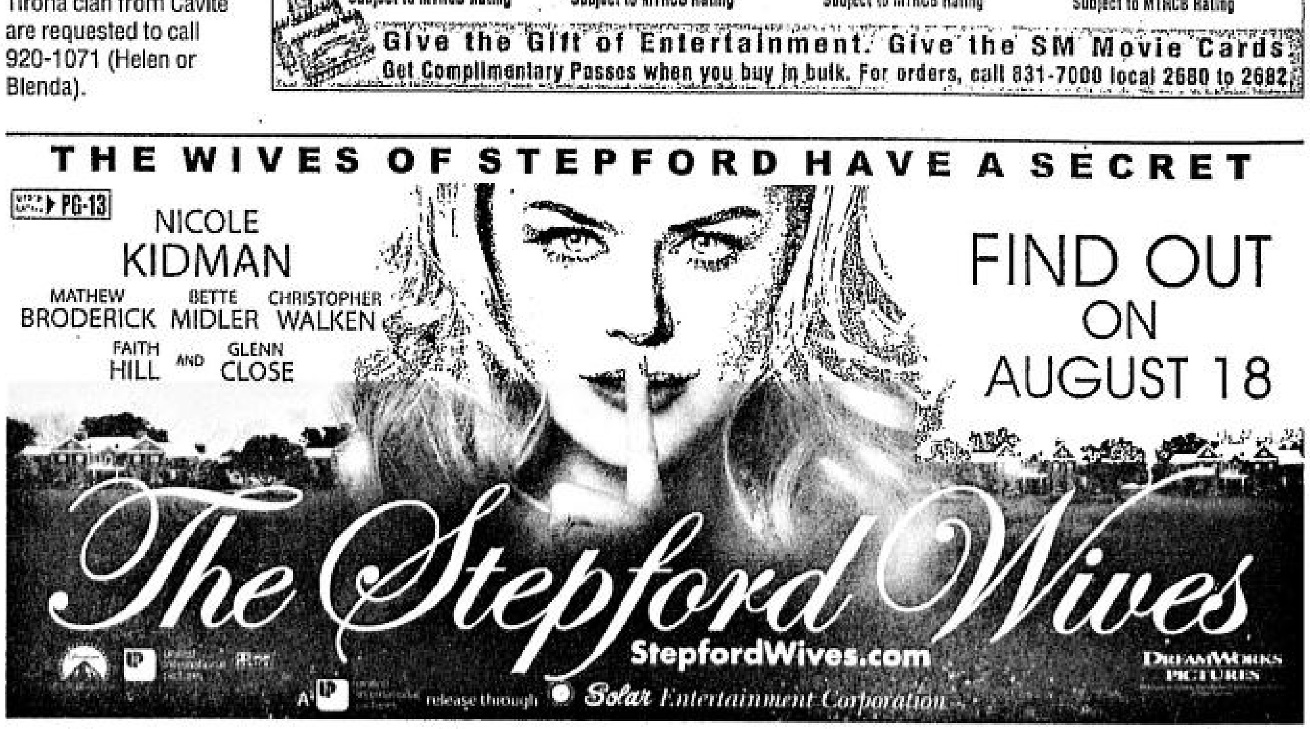
THE WIVES OF STEPFORD HAVE A SECRET


PG-13
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GALLERIA

632-9115 to 16

CINEMA 1 THX THE VILLAGE 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:30

Cinema	Movie	Times
2	A CINDERELLA STORY	10:30, 12:25, 2:20, 4:15, 6:10, 8:05, 10:00
3	GARFIELD	11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
4	COLLATERAL	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
5	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9.50
6	THE VILLAGE	11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
7	SYLVIA	10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
8	ETERNAL SUNSHINE	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
9	CATWOMAN	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
10	I, ROBOT	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P150 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA

536-7809 to 12

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	THE VILLAGE	11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40
2	GARFIELD	11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:35, 9:40
3	A CINDERELLA STORY	10.30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10.00
4	SYLVIA	11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8.00, 10:00
5	DEAD PEOPLE	11:15, 1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:35, 9:40
6	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
7	COLLATERAL	10:10, 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:00

METRO EAST

682-8193/99 / 682-8280

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	I, ROBOT	11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 9:00
2	CATWOMAN	10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
3	THE VILLAGE	12:15, 2:50, 5:25, 8.00, 10:35
4	COLLATERAL	10:45, 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 9:00
5	GARFIELD	10:50, 12.50, 2.50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
6	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	10:10, 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:35
7	A CINDERELLA STORY	10.50, 12.50, 2.50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
8	KARELASYON	10.50, 12.50, 2.50, 4:50, 6.50, 9.00

NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW

935-3229 / 31

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	COLLATERAL	12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:30
2	THE VILLAGE	10:20, 12:25, 2:30, 4:35, 6:40, 8:45
3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30
4	GARFIELD	10:30, 12:10, 1:50, 3:30, 5:10, 6:50, 8:30
5	A CINDERELLA STORY	11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6.00, 8:30
6	CATWOMAN	11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40
7	KARELASYON	11:00, 12:55, 2.50, 4:45, 6:40, 8:35
8	I, ROBOT	11:00, 1:15, 3:30

Citisquare MALABON

288-0985/2575

Cinema	Movie
1	COLLATERAL
2	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3	A CINDERELLA STORY
4	THE VILLAGE

CAINTA

240-4661

Cinema	Movie
1	THE VILLAGE
2	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3	A CINDERELLA STORY
4	COLLATERAL

STA. ROSA

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Cinema	Movie
1	COLLATERAL
2	GARFIELD
3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4	THE VILLAGE
5	MAKAMUNDO

LIPA

757-3664 / 312-5870

Cinema	Movie
1	WEREWOLF
2	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
3	A CINDERELLA STORY
4	KAINAN SA HIGHWAY
5	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

DASMARIÑAS

852-2125 / 416-4332

Cinema	Movie
1	COLLATERAL
2	THE VILLAGE
3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4	MAKAMUNDO
5	WEREWOLF

STARMILLS

875-1927 / 961-5270

Cinema	Movie
1	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
2	PERLAS
3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4	DEAD PEOPLE
5	SPARTAN
6	THE VILLAGE

IMUS

471-0188 / 875-5858

Cinema	Movie
1	COLLATERAL
2	ETERNAL SUNSHINE
3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4	THE VILLAGE
5	KARELASYON
6	A CINDERELLA STORY

BACOLOD

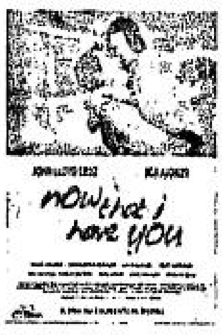
441-0458/59

Cinema	Movie
1	COLLATERAL
2	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3	ALONG CAME POLLY
4	WEREWOLF
5	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
6	PERLAS

ILOILO

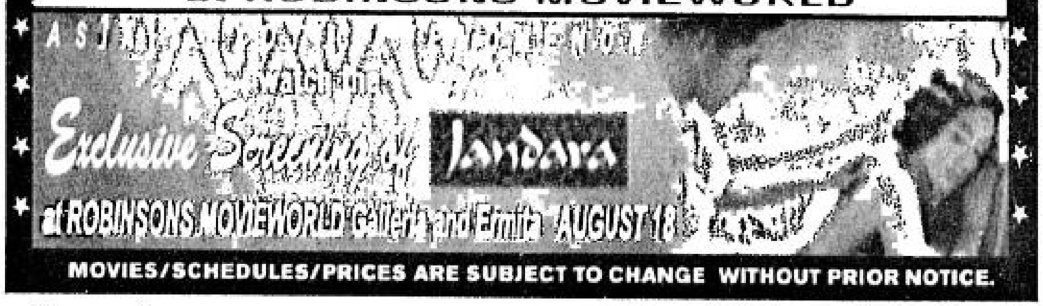
336-8070/78

Cinema	Movie
1	COLLATERAL
2	THE PRINCE AND ME
3	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
4	EVE
5	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6	PERLAS


now that i have you

THE VILLAGE

at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD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GARFIELD **GP** 12:00,1:45,3:30, 5:20,7:10,9:00	**CINDERELLA STORY** **GP** 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00	**NOW THAT I HAVE YOU** **GP** 12:20,2:45,5:10,7:35,10:00
COLLATERAL **R13** 11:50,2:25,5:00,7:35,10:10	**ETERNAL SUNSHINE** **R13** 1:10,3:20,5:30,7:40,9:50	**THE VILLAGE** **PG13** 12:40,3:05,5:30,7:55,10:20

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star group of cinemas movie guide

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- The Village
- Karelasyon

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- Karelasyon
- Now That I Have You
- Catwoman
- The Village
- Collateral

starmall LAS PINAS
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- Now That I Have You

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SHANG CINEPLEX

Friday, August 13, 2004

1 GARFIELD (GP)

2 COLLATERAL (R-13)

3 THE VILLAGE (PG-13)

4 CINDERELLA STORY (GP)

PREMIERE THEATRE — SYLVIA (R-18)

For more information please call
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Shangri-La Plaza

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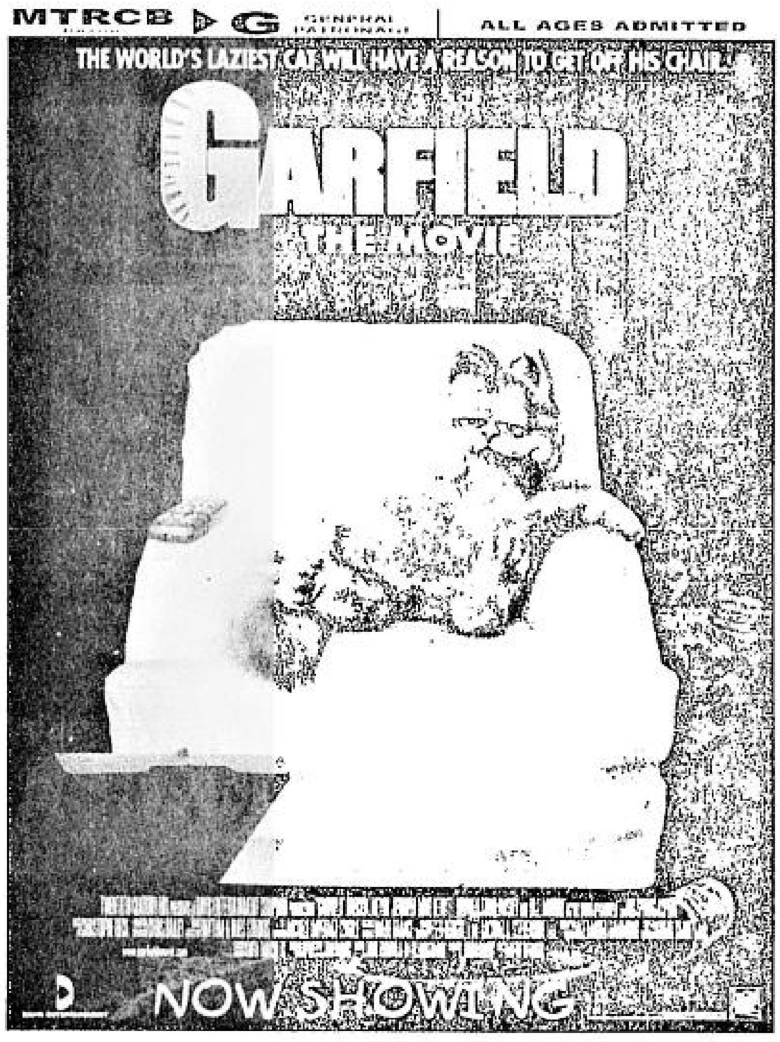
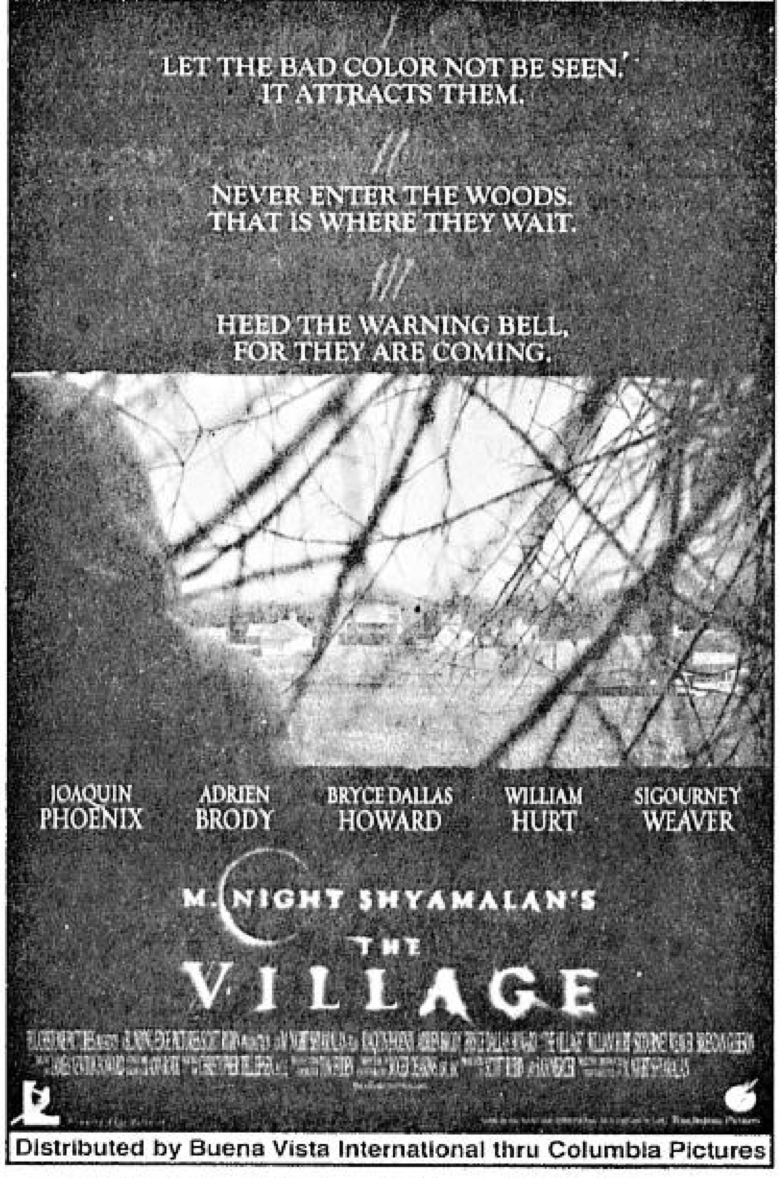

THE WORLD'S LAZIEST CAT WILL HAVE A REASON TO GET OFF HIS CHAIR.
GARFIELD
THE MOVIE
NOW SHOWING

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB ▷ PG-13 Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult



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Diwa salutes teachers

THE COUNTRY'S leading academic publisher pays homage to Filipino teachers in a grand gesture unprecedented in the education community. Diwa Learning Systems will gather together around 5,000 teachers, administrators and friends from all over the country to pay tribute to exemplary educators on Aug. 28 at the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila.

"Giving recognition to the people who have shaped and molded the characters of our national heroes, our leaders and everyone who has been to school has long been overdue. We all owe our own individual successes to all the teachers who have nurtured us and encouraged us throughout our growing up years. Diwa is simply creating the venue where we can all collectively commend and offer our gratitude to these unsung heroes," said "Mads" Javellana, Diwa President.

Registration starts at 6:30 a.m. and program proper starts at 8:00 a.m. Participants who pre-register and confirm attendance before Aug. 15 will get the complete seminar pack, a certificate of participation plus a chance to win in the raffle.

Participants may register through any of the following: Diwa website at www.diwa.ph, fax 817-8700, call 893-8501, e-mail at tribute@diwamail.com.ph or through Diwa's Learning Systems Specialists assigned in their respective schools.

Araneta Center ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

Cinema	Sound	Movie	Times
3	Dolby	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	12:30 pm 2:30 pm 4:30 pm 6:30 pm 8:30 pm
4	SDDS	COLLATERAL	12:40 pm 3:25 pm 6:10 pm 8:55 pm
5	dts	THE VILLAGE	12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm
6	Dolby	KA-RELASYON	12.05 pm 2:15 pm 4:25 pm 6:35 pm 8:45 pm
7	Dolby	CINDERELLA STORY	12 25 pm 2:35 pm 4:45 pm 6:55 pm 9:05 pm

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ARANETA COLISEUM

Date	Event
Aug 13	NIGHT OF THE CHAMPIONS THE REPEAT
Aug 14	UAAP: F E U vs. La Salle
Aug 15	CCF WORSHIP SERVICE
Aug 18	BENCH Fashion Show
Aug 21	AVON Sales Convention

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

Theater	Movie
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

Theater	Movie
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KARELASYON
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

Theater	Movie
A	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

Theater	Movie
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1,2,3&4	GARFIELD / COLLATERAL / THE VILLAGE/CINDERELLA
PREMIERE THEATRE	SYLVIA

CAINTA RIZAL

Theater	Movie
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
CINEMA-2	KARELASYON
CINEMA-3	KING ARTHUR
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	I, ROBOT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	ELLA ENCHANTED
CINEMA-6	MAKAMUNDO
CINEMA-7	CATWOMAN
CINEMA-8	IMELDA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	COLLATERAL
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE VILLAGE
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	CINDERELLA STORY
CINEMA-12	GARFIELD
CINEMA-14	DEAD PEOPLE
CINEMA-15	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

LORES

Theater	Movie
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

Theater	Movie
(LAS PINAS)	SPIDERMAN 2
CINEMA-1	LADY KILLERS
CINEMA-2	I ROBOT
CINEMA-4	RESERVED

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

Theater	Movie
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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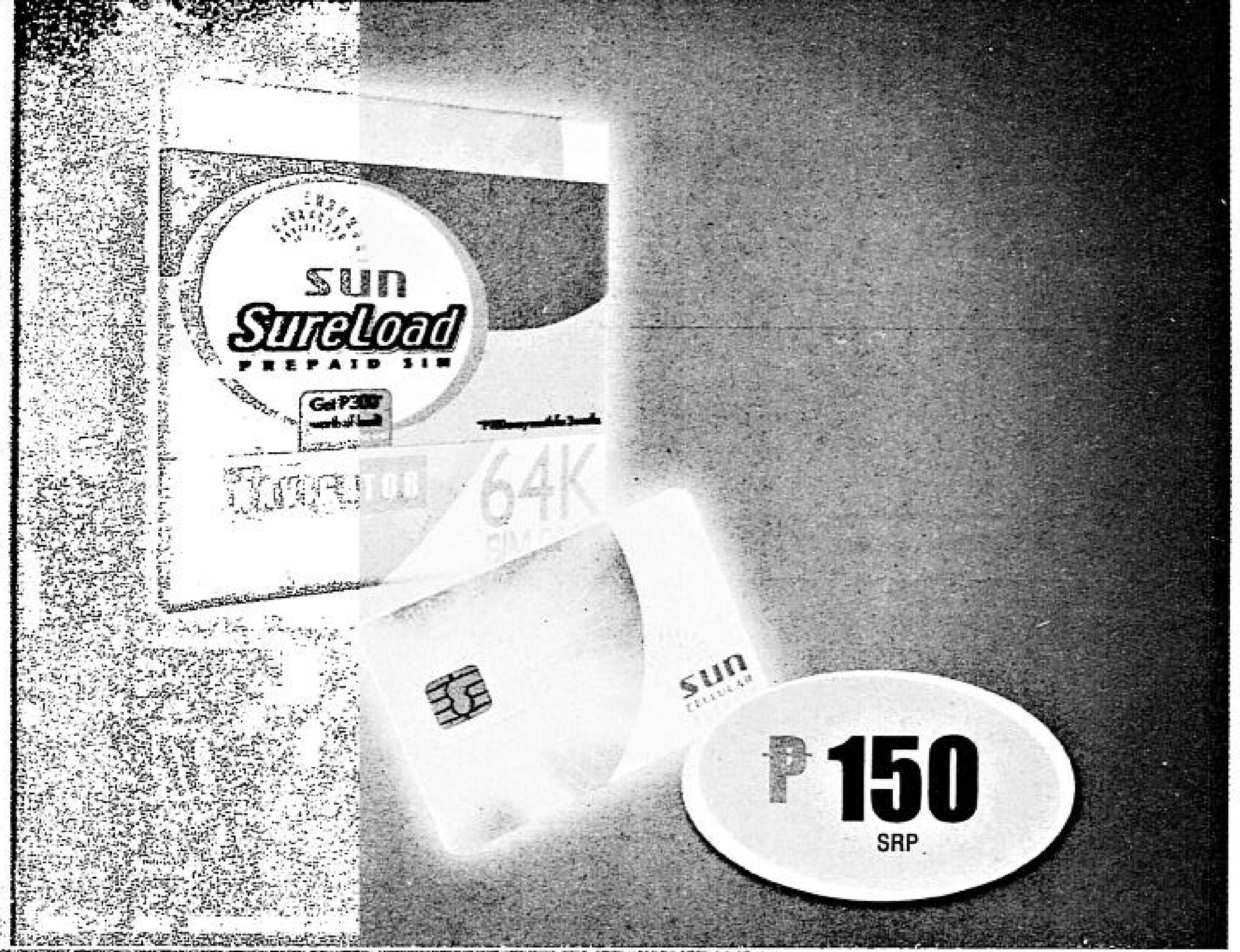
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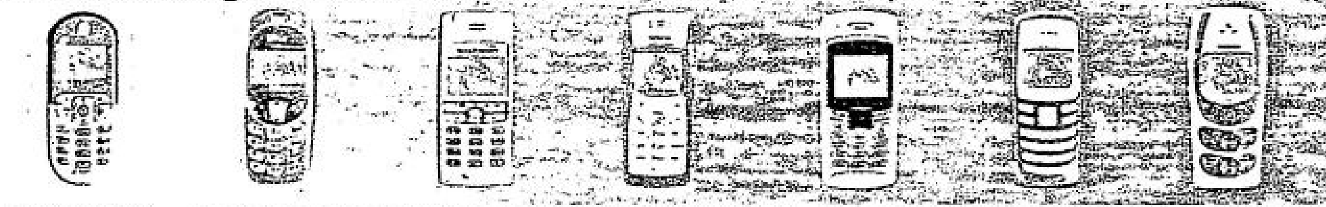

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Editor Louie C. Camino

ESCALANTE. "I'm a storyteller."

Something Wonder-ful

By Gibbs Cadiz

PERHAPS Bituin Escalante was fated to sing Stevie Wonder sooner or later in her musical career.

While the theater-trained vocalist had cut her teeth on Aretha Franklin, Gladys Knight and other soul and R&B artists as she grew up and tried to break into the mainstream music scene, more and more she's been asked to acquire a "pop diva" packaging—shimmering gowns, power ballads, curlicued vocals—to compete with the country's reigning belters.

But the vibrant, soulful lure of the music she grew up with is never too far from Escalante. So much so that when she auditioned for the Australian production of "The Lion King" some months ago, she sang, not a Broadway standard, but "Don't You Worry About a Thing," a cut from Wonder's 1973 masterpiece album, "Innervisions," which produced, among other immortal tracks, "Higher Ground" and "Isn't She Lovely."

She passed the auditions, but eventually decided not to take the offer to move to Australia and be part of the ensemble. While she would have been an understudy for the pivotal role of Rafiki, Escalante and her management team felt there were better local opportunities to tap for now.

JAY-R

Nothing random

For Escalante, singing Stevie Wonder at the audition was no random choice. "His songs showcase your range, how dynamic your voice is," she says. "Plus they're very personal."

With a song like "Isn't She Lovely," for instance, which Wonder wrote as a valentine to his daughter, "You can go and sing it—*'Isn't she lovely/ life and love are the same/ life is Aisha/ the meaning of her name'*—but in the end, it's still his," she says. "There's a name on it!"

The challenge for anyone trying out Wonder's intensely personal music and lyrics, then, is telling his stories through song while not ending up a mimic or an imitator. After all, there is only one Stevie Wonder—Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame inductee, Grammy-winning composer-singer of over 15 No. 1 R&B hits and many other pop standards, beloved music icon and living legend.

But Escalante feels her extensive theater training has given her the wherewithal to tackle this material.

"He's a poet, and his lyrics are beautiful," she says. "Theater actors usually get what he's trying to say. Many pop singers, unfortunately, concentrate only on getting their vocal placements and the 'kulot' right, and not the lyrics."

"I'm not an image-based singer, I'm a storyteller," adds Escalante, so Wonder's dramatic stories in song feel just right for her.

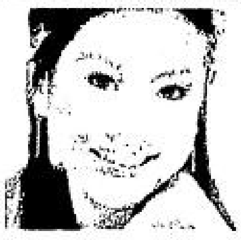
Concert headliner

Escalante will have the chance to show her mastery of Wonder's musical heritage when she headlines "Something Wonderful," a concert to be staged on Saturday, Aug. 14, 8:30 p.m., at the 2,7276-seater Aliw Theater in Star City, Manila.

Joining her in the concert are R&B star Jay-R, acoustic singer Jimmy Bondoc and the all-male harmony group Akafellas. Some 25 Stevie Wonder songs are in the repertoire, most of them popular and artistic milestones like "You Are the Sunshine of My Life" and "Superstition" (from the multiple Grammy-winning album "Talking Book," 1972) and, of course, "Sir Duke" (from what many consider to be Wonder's magnum opus, "Songs in the Key of

SOMETHING/ C3

Rachelle: Erik and I are just friends /C4



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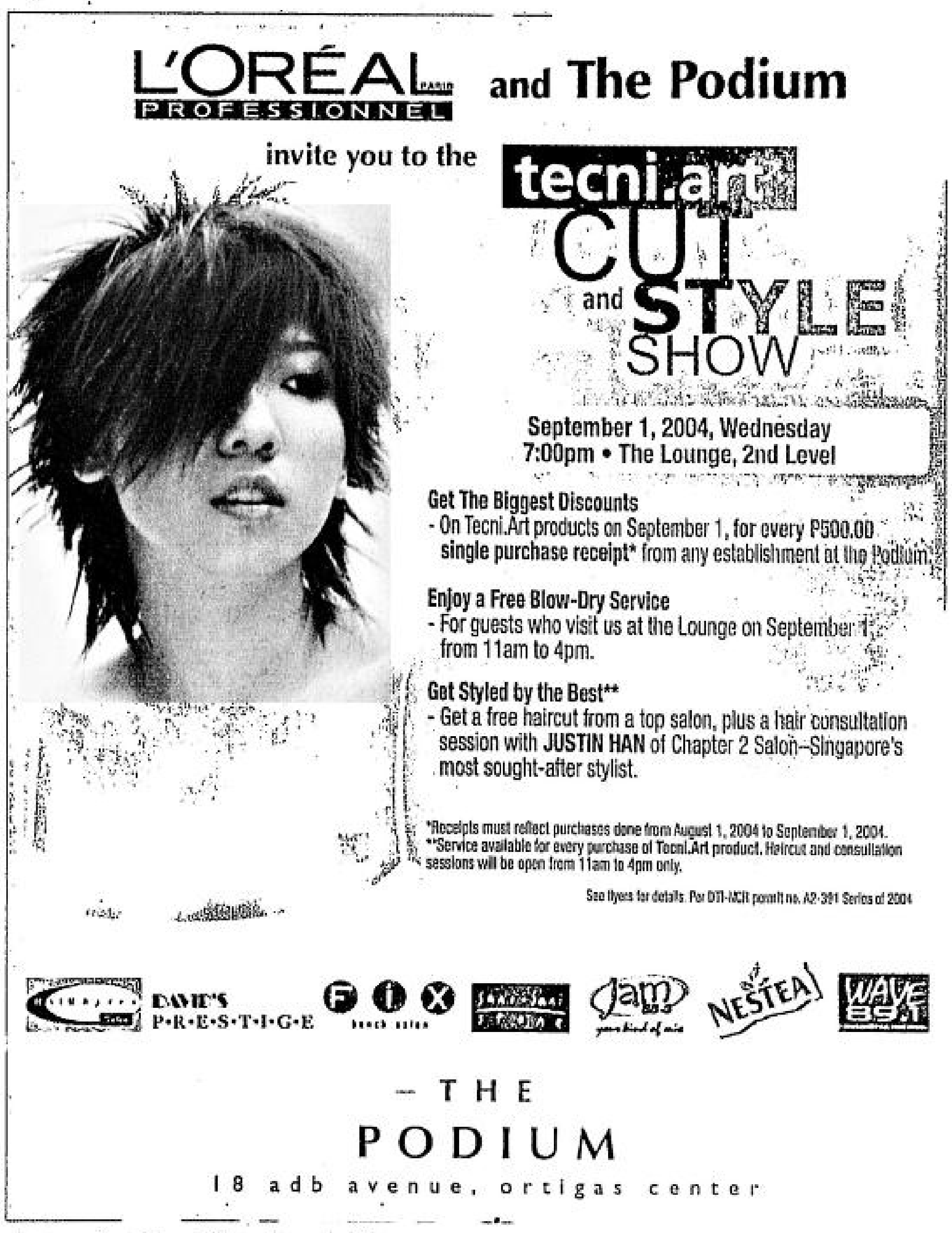

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Ubos Na Ang Pasensya — Salbakuta & Ogie Alcasid — WINTONE UBOSNA

Easier To Run — Linkin Park — WINPOLY EASIER2RUN
Nananaginip Ng Gising — Sarah Geronimo — WINPOLY NANANAGINIP
Until I Get Over You — Christina Milian — WINPOLY GETOVER
Love Is A Matter Of Distance — Will Young — WINPOLY LOVEIS
Adia — Sarah McLachlan — WINPOLY ADIA
Outrageous — Britney Spears — WINPOLY OUTRAGEOUS
Love's Divine — Seal — WINPOLY LOVESDIV
Miss Independent — Kelly Clarkson — WINPOLY MSIN
She's The One — Robbie Williams — WINPOLY SHESDONE

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WINLOGO MISSU9 · WINLOGO WUZUP2 · WINLOGO FISHLUV · WINLOGO BEMINE3 · WINLOGO RINGS2 · WINLOGO LUVIDIRHS2 · WINLOGO SEXYNABA · WINLOGO KULDUDE1
WINPIC KAMUSTA2 · WINPIC GALITKABA · WINPIC LUVPLATE1 · WINPIC ILY11 · WINPIC BABAE · WINPIC HICAT · WINPIC DRIMIN · WINPIC LUPET · WINPIC LABU2 · WINPIC DONT1
WINPIC CARLFUL · WINPIC LUVAGEN · WINPIC 2HARTS2 · WINPIC ADIKTED · WINPIC CUTEHEART · WINPIC FUNNYKA · WINPIC 2HOT4U · WINPIC CUIMD · WINPIC FRENDS5 · WINPIC PURFECT
WINMMS BEARHONEY · WINMMS BUNNYLUV · WINMMS HARTWORM · WINMMS LUVTURTLE · WINMMS SNAILUV · WINMMS HARESNACK · WINMMSAVER ALIEEGG

POW Type POWTONE and send to 288 Get the hottest ring tone automatically delivered to your cell phone weekly.
POW Type POWLOGO and send to 288 Get the hottest logo automatically delivered to your cell phone weekly.
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How to download a logo, ring tone or picture message:
WINLOGO LOVEUS — Type in keyword. Ex. WINLOGO LOVEUS, WINTONE 2TRICK, OR WINPIC KAMUSTA2
288 — Send to 288.
Save upon receiving logo, ring tone or picture message.

To send a logo, tone or picture message to a friend, type <keyword> <cell phone number> and send to 288. To send a logo, LOGO LOVEUS 09181234567. To send a tone, TONE 2TRICK 09181234567. To send a picture message, PIC KAMUSTA2 09181234567. To download all these from your SMART Super SIM, simply go to the SMART Menu, select SMART zed and then select My Favorites. Just click on the service you wish to download. It's so easy! Logos, ring tones and picture messages are supported by selected Nokia handsets. Also available to Talk 'N Text subscribers. P15.00 for every successful download. Download now! Note: In order for you to identify which musical work the ring tone in question is based on, we have, an addition to the song title, referred an artist who has made the song well known. The artist in question has not participated in the production of the ring tone. Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, text us at 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

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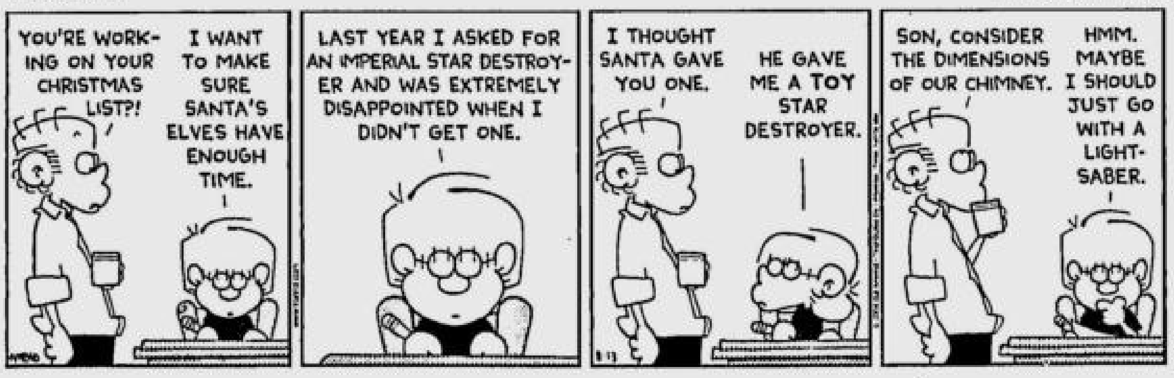
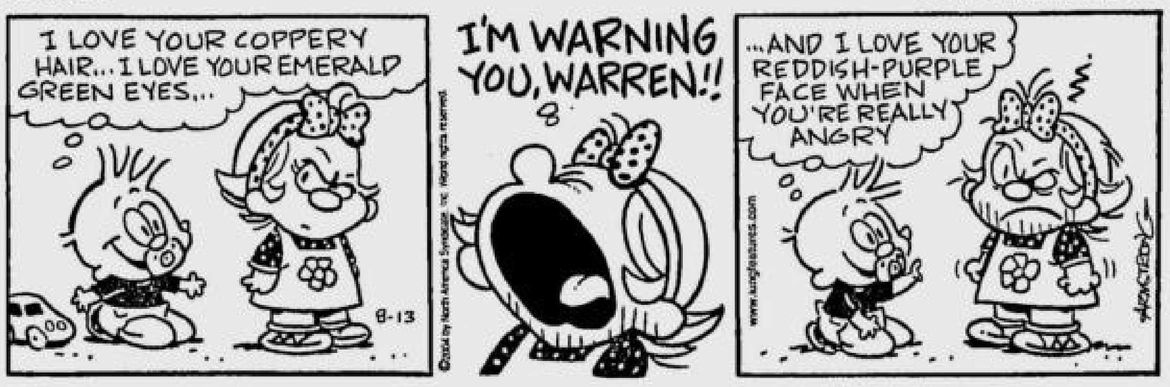
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


YOU'RE WORKING ON YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST?!
I WANT TO MAKE SURE SANTA'S ELVES HAVE ENOUGH TIME.
LAST YEAR I ASKED FOR AN IMPERIAL STAR DESTROYER AND WAS EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED WHEN I DIDN'T GET ONE.
I THOUGHT SANTA GAVE YOU ONE.
HE GAVE ME A TOY STAR DESTROYER.
SON, CONSIDER THE DIMENSIONS OF OUR CHIMNEY.
HMM. MAYBE I SHOULD JUST GO WITH A LIGHT-SABER.

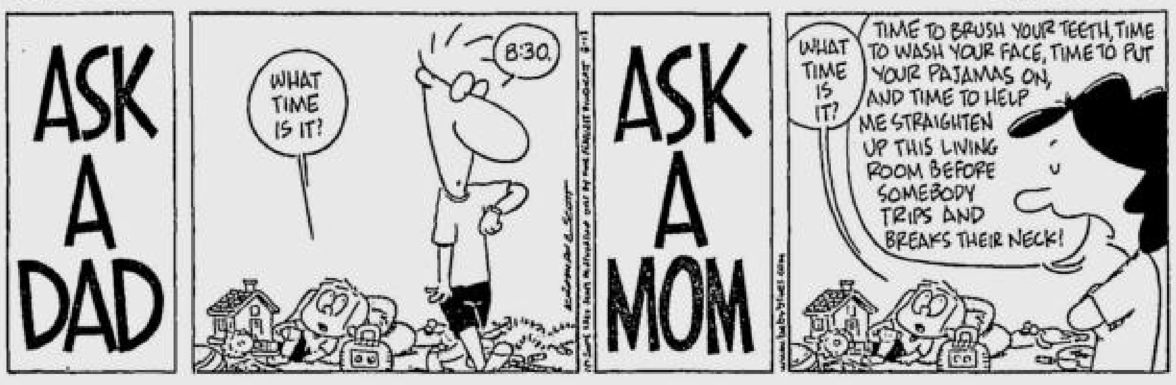
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I LOVE YOUR COPPERY HAIR... I LOVE YOUR EMERALD GREEN EYES...
8-13
I'M WARNING YOU, WARREN!!
...AND I LOVE YOUR REDDISH-PURPLE FACE WHEN YOU'RE REALLY ANGRY

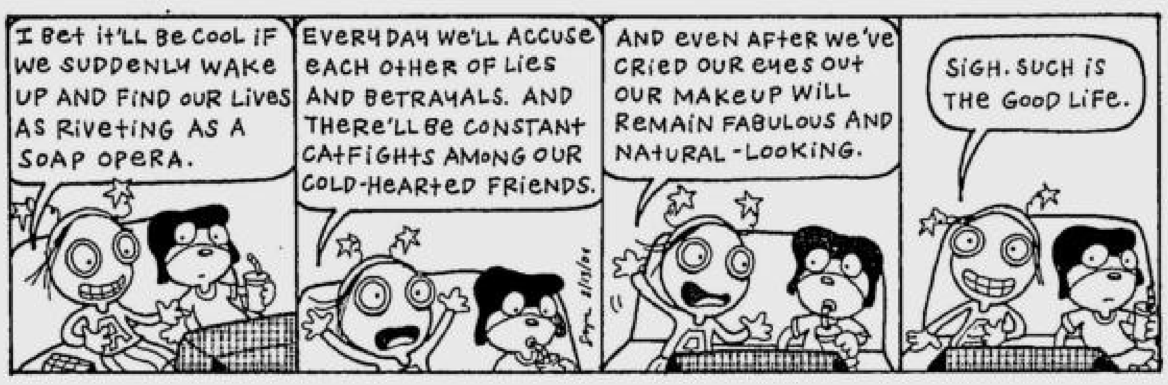
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ASK A DAD
WHAT TIME IS IT?
8:30.
ASK A MOM
WHAT TIME IS IT?
TIME TO BRUSH YOUR TEETH, TIME TO WASH YOUR FACE, TIME TO PUT YOUR PAJAMAS ON, AND TIME TO HELP ME STRAIGHTEN UP THIS LIVING ROOM BEFORE SOMEBODY TRIPS AND BREAKS THEIR NECK!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I BET IT'LL BE COOL IF WE SUDDENLY WAKE UP AND FIND OUR LIVES AS RIVETING AS A SOAP OPERA.
EVERYDAY WE'LL ACCUSE EACH OTHER OF LIES AND BETRAYALS. AND THERE'LL BE CONSTANT CATFIGHTS AMONG OUR COLD-HEARTED FRIENDS.
AND EVEN AFTER WE'VE CRIED OUR EYES OUT OUR MAKEUP WILL REMAIN FABULOUS AND NATURAL-LOOKING.
SIGH. SUCH IS THE GOOD LIFE.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are bold and courageous. You're capable of overcoming big obstacles in your life. You are quite unique; and in turn, you're attracted to unusual people. Your dynamic energy and belief in yourself inspire cooperation from others. Expect to wrap up a nine-year cycle this year. You're going to move on to something new.

Birthdate of: Danny Bonaduce, actor; Alfred Hitchcock, director; Midori Ito, figure skater.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): The introduction of new technology to your home, or a surprise visit from someone, will stir up your routine . You might buy something unusual for a family member.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're bored with the same old humdrum routine. You want to do something stimulating and unusual today! Change the pace of things to make life more exciting.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You might get a sudden financial windfall today. A raise, a job opportunity or a pleasant perk could come your way. Just smile and say "thank you."

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Something unexpected and exciting will happen to you today. You could meet somebody from a different background. You might even fall in love!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Strange coincidences and unusual conversations with others will give you a fresh, spiritual insight on things. You have a better understanding of life and what makes people tick.

VIRGO (Aug. 23, to Sept. 22): You'll probably meet a real character today. Some kind of bizarre situation will occur with a group or perhaps a friend. In fact, somebody might really shock you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Unexpected praise or good news from bosses and management pleases you today. You might have a chance to improve your career direction. If so, the window of opportunity is very brief. Act quickly.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Surprise offers to travel or improve your education in some way come to you today. You should accept. Travel, education and publishing are areas that bring you luck now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): An unexpected gift might come your way today. Possibly, somebody will do a surprise favor for you. Stay tuned and expect the best, because goodies can definitely fall in your lap!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Expect a few surprises when dealing with someone today. However, it will be a pleasant surprise. You might be introduced to somebody new and exciting, probably from a different background.

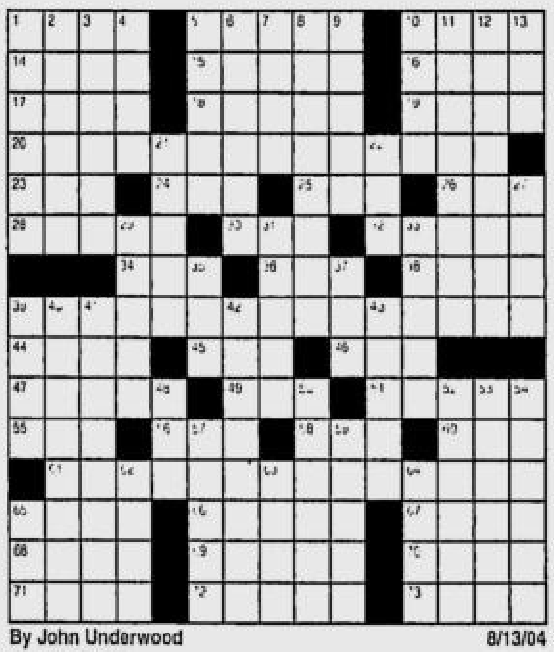
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): New changes related to technology and electronics might be introduced to you today. Surprising news from a coworker could make you gasp. (It won't be a boring day.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Flirtations are exciting. Love at first sight might take place today. All kinds of entertaining diversions, sports and playful activities will please you now.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Perry's penner
5 Fancy cravat
10 Starting place
14 Sow partner
15 Staggering motion
16 Simians
17 Punta del __
18 Outline
19 Waste catcher
20 Occult thirteen
23 Prefix with corn
24 Map dir.
25 Morse symbol
26 That woman
28 Belle or Bart
30 Bread choice
32 Cromwell's earldom
34 Actress Gabor
36 Extremity
38 Neighbor of Tex.
39 Hollywood "Thirteen"
44 "Dies __"
45 Drummer Blakey
46 Feathered neckwear
47 Aspect
49 Sandwich letters
51 Symbol of straightness
55 Inhabitant of: suff.
56 Dos Passos work
58 DDE's rival
60 Actress/director Lupino
61 American thirteen
65 Part of U.A.E.
66 Spring and ebb
67 Luxurious
68 Dieter's word
69 Make amends
70 Deftness
71 Yeats or Keats
72 Puts one's feet up
73 Clothed

DOWN
1 Puts up
2 La Costa or Tahoe
3 Neighbor of Estonia
4 Fencing sword
5 Some saxes
6 Wave rider
7 Bird's crop
8 Orient counterpart
9 Greek letter
10 Shower alternative
11 Post-slalom?
12 Beach souvenir
13 Psychic's letters
21 Daring
22 Fidel's confederate
27 Midterm, e.g.
29 U.S. Grant's opponent
31 Barbra Streisand film
33 Up to now
35 Eureka!
37 Coming-out gal
39 Outmoded sound system
40 Sacred story set to music
41 Slash
42 City dweller
43 Cook with dry heat
48 Drag along
50 Innate ability
52 Voodoo to-do
53 Black Sea port
54 Laundered
57 Ravi Shankar's instrument
59 Slalom turns
62 Skeptic's retort
63 Fusses
64 McCowen or Baldwin
65 Mont Blanc, e.g.



By John Underwood
New York, NY
8/13/04

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

S	L	A	C	K	■	A	T	V	S	■	S	H	A	D
C	A	N	O	E	■	B	R	I	T	■	P	A	L	E
O	N	I	O	N	■	B	A	S	E	B	A	L	L	S
T	E	L	L	Y	S	A	V	A	L	A	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	I	O	U	■	■	S	L	R	■	A	R	M
T	A	R	T	N	E	S	S	■	A	R	E	T	H	A
I	R	E	■	■	Y	U	L	B	R	Y	N	N	E	R
D	I	L	L	S	■	R	A	E	■	S	L	O	B	S
I	S	A	A	C	H	A	Y	E	S	■	■	O	O	H
E	E	Y	O	R	E	■	S	R	I	L	A	N	K	A
S	S	S	■	E	R	A	■	■	D	E	T	■	■	■
■	■	■	J	E	S	S	E	V	E	N	T	U	R	A
H	I	R	O	S	H	I	M	A	■	N	I	L	E	S
O	N	E	S	■	E	M	I	L	■	O	R	E	C	K
G	A	P	E	■	L	O	R	E	■	N	E	E	D	S

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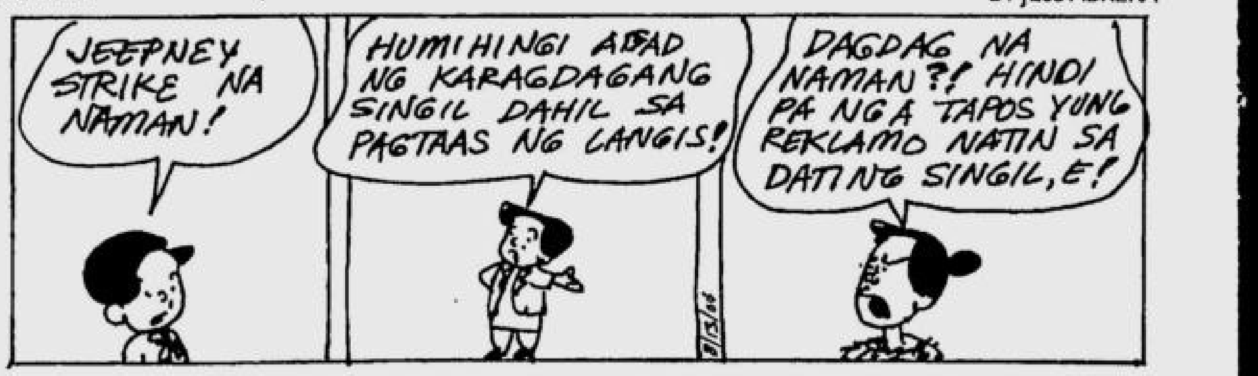
8/13/04

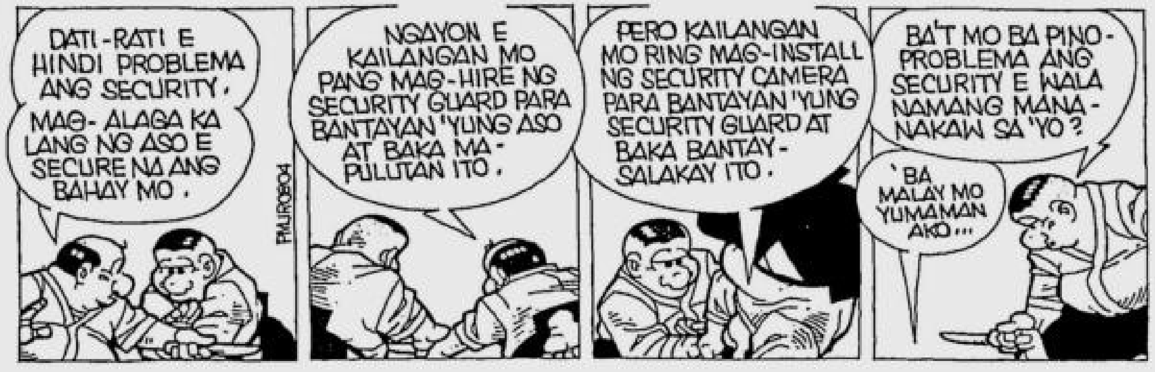
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


JEEPNEY STRIKE NA NAMAN!
HUMIHINGI AGAD NG KARAGDAGANG SINGIL DAHIL SA PAGTAAS NG LANGIS!
DAGDAG NA NAMAN?! HINDI PA NGA TAPOS YUNG REKLAMO NATIN SA DATING SINGIL, E!

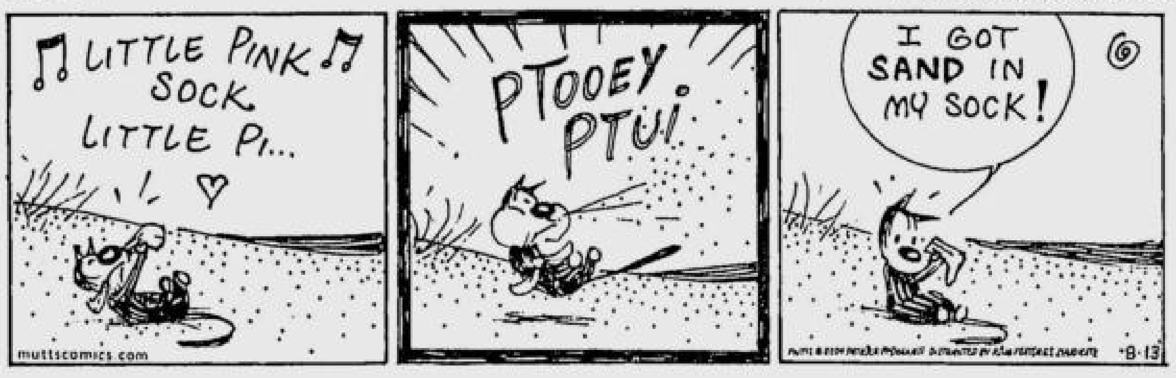
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


DATI-RATI E HINDI PROBLEMA ANG SECURITY.
MAG-ALAGA KA LANG NG ASO E SECURE NA ANG BAHAY MO.
NGAYON E KAILANGAN MO PANG MAG-HIRE NG SECURITY GUARD PARA BANTAYAN 'YUNG ASO AT BAKA MA-PULUTAN ITO.
PERO KAILANGAN MO RING MAG-INSTALL NG SECURITY CAMERA PARA BANTAYAN 'YUNG SECURITY GUARD AT BAKA BANTAY-SALAKAY ITO.
BA'T MO BA PINO-PROBLEMA ANG SECURITY E WALA NAMANG MANANAKAW SA 'YO?
'BA MALAY MO YUMAMAN AKO...

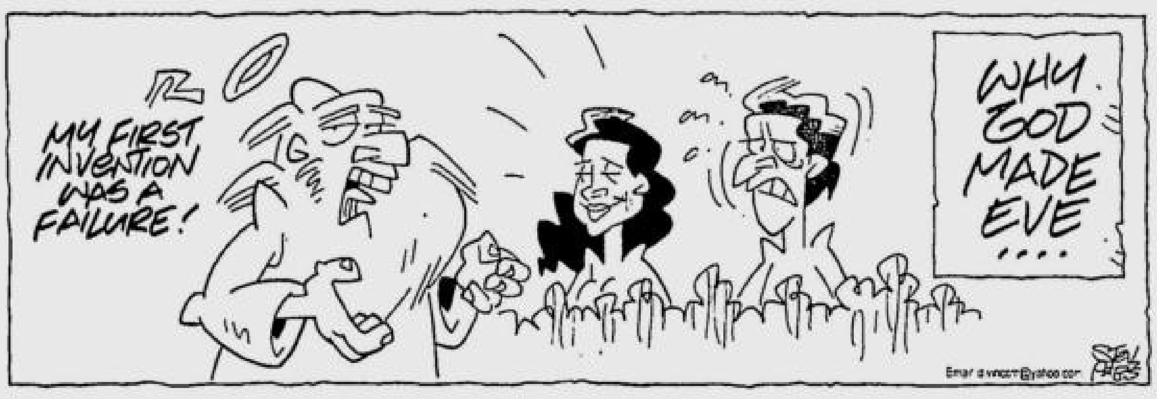
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


LITTLE PINK SOCK LITTLE PI...
muttscomics.com
PTOOEY PTUI
I GOT SAND IN MY SOCK!
8-13

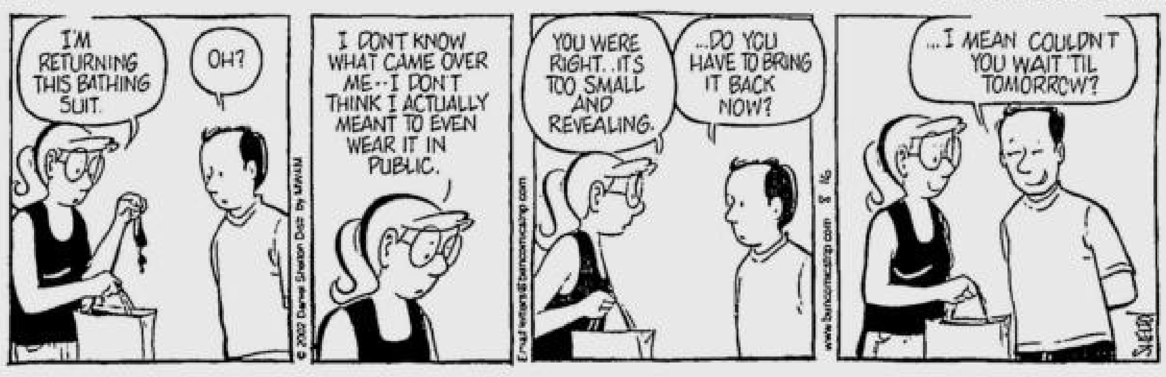
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


MY FIRST INVENTION WAS A FAILURE!
WHY GOD MADE EVE ....

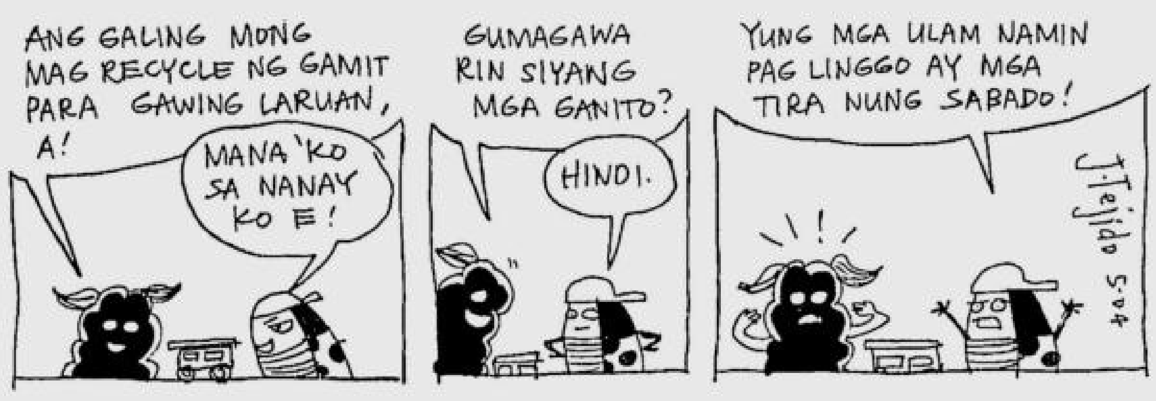
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I'M RETURNING THIS BATHING SUIT.
OH?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME-- I DON'T THINK I ACTUALLY MEANT TO EVEN WEAR IT IN PUBLIC.
YOU WERE RIGHT.. IT'S TOO SMALL AND REVEALING.
...DO YOU HAVE TO BRING IT BACK NOW?
...I MEAN COULDN'T YOU WAIT 'TIL TOMORROW?

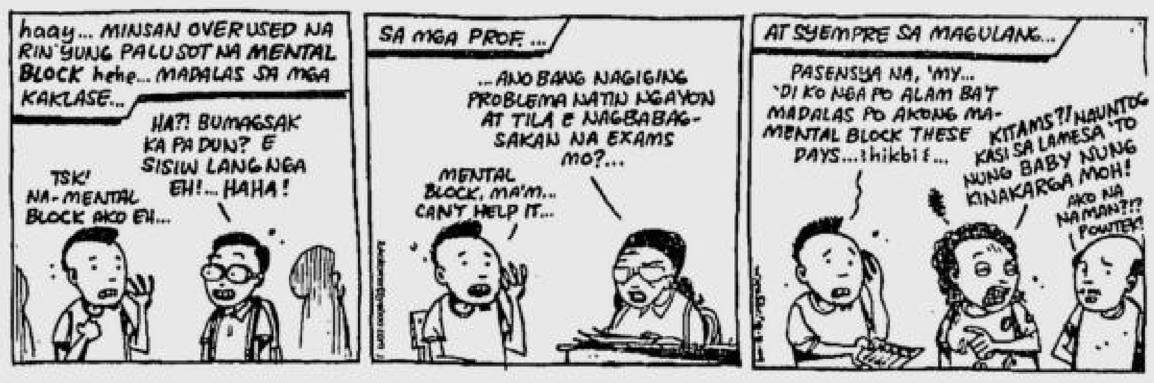
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG GALING MONG MAG RECYCLE NG GAMIT PARA GAWING LARUAN, A!
MANA 'KO SA NANAY KO E!
GUMAGAWA RIN SIYANG MGA GANITO?
HINDI.
YUNG MGA ULAM NAMIN PAG LINGGO AY MGA TIRA NUNG SABADO!
J. Tejido 5-04

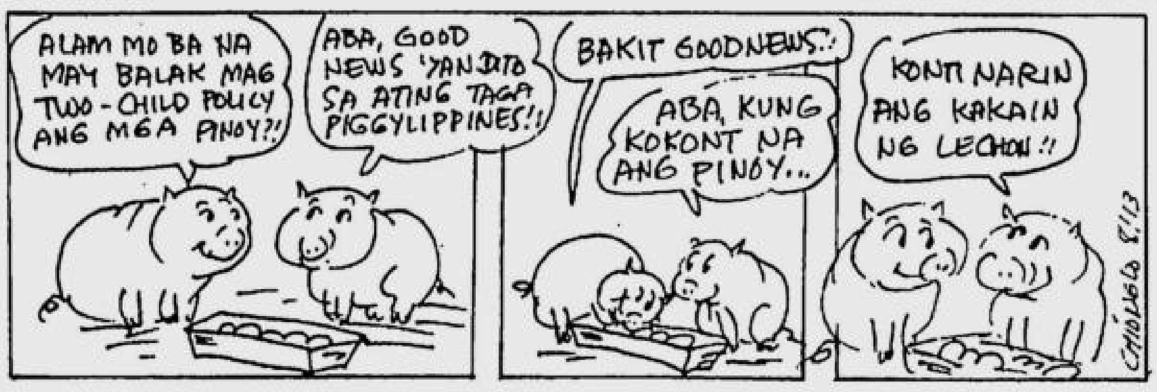
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


haay... MINSAN OVERUSED NA RIN YUNG PALUSOT NA MENTAL BLOCK hehe... MADALAS SA MGA KAKLASE...
TSK! NA-MENTAL BLOCK AKO EH...
HA?! BUMAGSAK KA PA DUN? E SISIW LANG NGA EH!... HAHA!
SA MGA PROF. ...
...ANO BANG NAGIGING PROBLEMA NATIN NGAYON AT TILA E NAGBABAGSAKAN NA EXAMS MO?...
MENTAL BLOCK, MA'M.. CAN'T HELP IT...
AT SYEMPRE SA MAGULANG...
PASENSYA NA, 'MY... 'DI KO NGA PO ALAM BA'T MADALAS PO AKONG MA-MENTAL BLOCK THESE DAYS... ¡hikbi! ...
KITAMS?! NAUNTOG KASI SA LAMESA 'TO NUNG BABY NUNG KINAKARGA MOH!
AKO NA NAMAN?!? POWTEK!

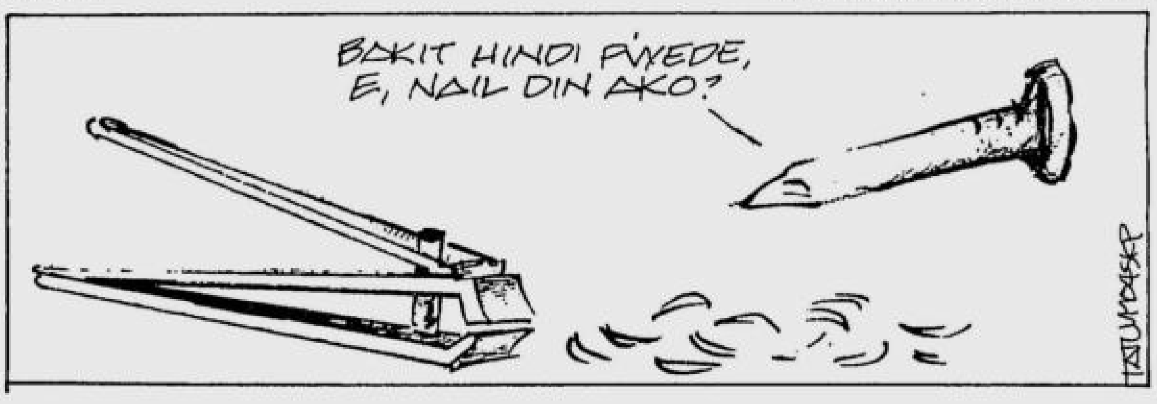
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM MO BA NA MAY BALAK MAG TWO-CHILD POLICY ANG MGA PINOY?!
ABA, GOOD NEWS 'YAN DITO SA ATING TAGA PIGGYLIPPINES!!
BAKIT GOODNEWS?!
ABA, KUNG KOKONT NA ANG PINOY...
KONTI NARIN ANG KAKAIN NG LECHON!!
CHIONGLO 8/13

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BAKIT HINDI PWEDE, E, NAIL DIN AKO?

movietime

SM CINEMA

NOW SHOWING

Central

SM MEGAMALL 6331901

1	COLLATERAL
2	COLLATERAL
3	THE VILLAGE
4	I, ROBOT
5	CINDERELLA STORY
6	SYLVIA
7	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
8	CATWOMAN
9	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
10	GARFIELD
11	ELLA ENCHANTED
12	DEAD PEOPLE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	I, ROBOT
2	CATWOMAN
3	THE ALAMO
4	COLLATERAL
5	CINDERELLA STORY
6	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
7	THE VILLAGE
8	GARFIELD
9	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
10	ELLA ENCHANTED
11	DEAD PEOPLE
12	IMELDA

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	THE VILLAGE
2	COLLATERAL
3	CATWOMAN
4	CINDERELLA STORY
5	GARFIELD
6	COLLATERAL
7	I, ROBOT
8	ELLA ENCHANTED
9	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
10	SYLVIA
11	DEAD PEOPLE
12	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	I, ROBOT
2	CINDERELLA STORY
3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4	COLLATERAL
5	GARFIELD
6	CATWOMAN
7	COLLATERAL
8	THE VILLAGE

SM CITY STA. MESA 7149522 • 7161416

1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2	CATWOMAN
3	THE VILLAGE
4	DEAD PEOPLE
5	COLLATERAL
6	ELLA ENCHANTED
7	GARFIELD
8	THE ALAMO
9	CINDERELLA STORY
10	I, ROBOT

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN 2514302

1	COLLATERAL
2	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3	THE VILLAGE
4	CINDERELLA STORY

North

SM CITY MARILAO (044) 933 2013 to 17

1	GARFIELD
2	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3	CATWOMAN
4	THE VILLAGE

SM CITY PAMPANGA 7128015

1	THE VILLAGE
2	GARFIELD
3	CATWOMAN
4	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
5	DEAD PEOPLE
6	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

SM CITY BAGUIO (074) 4464505

1	COLLATERAL
2	THE VILLAGE
3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

South

SM CITY LAS PIÑAS 8066688

1	GARFIELD
2	CINDERELLA STORY
3	THE VILLAGE
4	SYLVIA
5	ELLA ENCHANTED
6	DEAD PEOPLE
7	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
8	COLLATERAL
9	CATWOMAN
10	I, ROBOT

SM CITY BICUTAN 7763055

1	THE VILLAGE
2	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3	COLLATERAL
4	CINDERELLA STORY

SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT 8294975

1	COLLATERAL
2	THE VILLAGE
3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4	CINDERELLA STORY

SM CITY BACOOR (046)4173868

1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2	THE VILLAGE
3	CATWOMAN
4	CINDERELLA STORY
5	GARFIELD
6	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
7	COLLATERAL
8	DEAD PEOPLE

SM CITY DASMA (046) 4323201-04

1	THE VILLAGE
2	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3	COLLATERAL
4	GARFIELD

SM CITY LUCENA (042) 7106977-80

1	PRINCE & ME
2	ALONG CAME POLLY
3	WEREWOLF (GINGERSNAPS 2)
4	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

Visayas & Mindanao

SM CITY CEBU (032) 2313876

1	"MENOPAUSE"
2	WHOLE 10 YARDS
3	GARFIELD
4	PRINCE & ME
5	ELLA ENCHANTED
6	CATWOMAN
7	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
8	COLLATERAL

SM CITY ILOILO (033) 3209422

1	COLLATERAL
2	RESERVED
3	KING ARTHUR
4	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5	PRINCE & ME
6	CATWOMAN
7	RESERVED
8	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

SM CITY DAVAO (082) 2976998

1	PRINCE & ME
2	HAUNTED SPIRIT
3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4	CATWOMAN
5	ELLA ENCHANTED
6	COLLATERAL

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8592884

1	ALONG CAME POLLY
2	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
4	PRINCE & ME

—THE— PODIUM
CINEMA

1
COLLATERAL
11:50 FS/12:25 MF/3:05/5:45/8:25/ 10:25 LFS/11:00 LMF/ 1:05 END

2
CINDERELLA STORY
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/ 8:50/10:25 LFS/ 11:00 LMF/12:35 END

For Seat Reservation, call 633 6976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

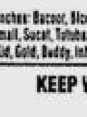
Watch Garfield at SM Cinema for a chance to take him home with you!

Opens August 4 at SM Cinemas
MTRCB Rating G

Just purchase a Garfield movie ticket from any of our participating outlets*, to get 1 SM Coupon with a unique 6-digit text code ranging from 100001 to 500000. Mobile subscribers** must affix a signature to the SM coupon after sending out text codes.

To join the promo, text SM (text code) (name) (full address) and send it to 239. Upon keying in the SM code, you will receive a text message confirming your receipt of the raffle entry PLUS one GARFIELD logo FREE!

Win these fantastic prizes up for grabs in this promo, exclusively at SM Cinemas!


(10) Nokia 3100

11 Garfield life-size stuff toys

Promo period is from August 7 - 14 only. Grand Draw is on Aug. 18, 2004.

*Participating Branches: Bacoor, Bicutan, Fairview, Manila, Megamall, North Edsa, Sta.Mesa, Southmall, Sucat, Tutuban, Dasmariñas, Cavite, Pampanga and Cebu.
**This promo is exclusive to Smart Kid, Gold, Buddy, Infinity, Addict and Talk 'n Text Subscribers and SM Cinema moviegoers only.

KEEP WATCHING GARFIELD

Buy 4 tickets to see the movie, Garfield to get exciting premium giveaways such as 1 mini-poster of Garfield, 1 storyland coupons* and 1 FREE one hour ice time coupons*.

Promo period is on August 4, 7 and 8, 2004 at the following SM Branches - Megamall, North Edsa, Southmall, Manila, Sta. Mesa, Fairview, Bacoor, Sucat, Bicutan, Tutuban, Dasmariñas, Pampanga and Cebu

*These premium item giveaways are available at all SM Cinema branches except Pampanga, Cebu, Baguio, Lucena, Iloilo, Davao, Cagayan de Oro and Marilao

See flyers for details
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1491, Series of 2004

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ASIA'S EROTIC PHENOMENON
Jandara
STORY OF SEX, GUILT AND RETRIBUTION

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

proudly brings you
the exclusive screening of
ASIA'S EROTIC PHENOMENON

Jandara

at Robinsons Movieworld
Galleria and Ermita on August 18

CAST:
Viapavee Charoenpua, Christy Chung, Suwinit Panjamawat.

SYNOPSIS:
Jan Dara is a film set in the moody and turbulent Thailand of the 1930s. Jan Dara is the name of a Thai young man whose earliest memories recall his own father having sex with his childhood nanny. In this lopsided and obsessive world. At the tender age of thirteen, he was cast out of his comfortable but troubled household after his stepsister accused him of rape. Years later Jan Dara returns home to seek revenge on his father by outdoing his father's sexual conquests and making him be witness to his triumphs.

MTRCB Rating: R18

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7 GOLD (DOLBY)	ELLA ENCHANTED
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Eva & Jon returns to Robinsons

THE TALENTED tandem of Eva & Jon returns to Taste Buds at Robinsons Place Manila on Thursday, Aug. 26.

Eva & Jon will be singing their personal favorites as well as alternative and R&B songs.

Showtime is 6 p.m. at the Activity Area of Taste Buds, Level 2, Robinsons Place Manila.

Taste Buds is home to specialty restaurants and bistros Bacolod Chicken Inasal, Sushi Ya, Jumbo Japs, Thai in a Box, Mongolian Stop, Dencio's, Mario's Kitchen, Sorabol, Tang City and San Francisco Coffee.

BONDOC

Something Wonder-ful

From page C1

Life," 1976).

Jay-R himself expresses delight at being able to sing the compositions of a musical artist he considers one of his influences. Wonder is a progenitor of the kind of sinewy R&B that now dominates the hit charts. "It's great to play around with his funky, more upbeat numbers," says Jay-R.

The show is being bankrolled by first-time producer Cecile Rodgers, who—not surprisingly—is a big Stevie Wonder fan.

"When I was thinking of putting up this show, I immediately thought no other local singer could do justice to Stevie Wonder, that kind of soulful black music, than Bituin, so that's why we have her," says Rodgers.

She's working hard on coming up with a concert that would offer something different to its audience. "I don't want them to see songs that they've seen on 'SOP,' so we've come up with new arrangements, and the repertoire will be exciting," Rodgers says.

That's why, even if it is Wonder's biggest-selling hit ever, the schmaltzy "I Just Called to Say I Love You" won't be on the playlist. Only Stevie Wonder's genius could animate that callow relic of '80s pop, and Escalante and company are not about to try.

For tickets to the Aug. 14 concert, "Something Wonderful," call 0917-5305308 or visit any SM TicketNet outlets or the Araneta Coliseum box office.

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph

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Rachelle: Erik and I just friends

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

RACHELLE Ann Go is the picture of calm. Unlike the uncertain weather this sunny/rainy afternoon, the singing champion knows exactly what to do with the éclair on her plate.

"I want to have a taste of it," says Rachelle, as she takes a forkful into her mouth. "Then I have to drink lots of water." Sweets, just like cold beverages and inadequate rest, affect the vocal cords, she explains.

So who says you can't have your cake or, in Rachelle's case, éclair, and eat it, too?

Before Rachelle leaves for the US to bring "Night of the Champions" to key cities, she'll be celebrating her debut first on Aug. 31.

"But I still don't have plans for my birthday," she shakes her head. "I might be working on that day. It's a Tuesday so my friends and my relatives have either school or work. If I could have my way, I want my party to have a Grecian theme."

No boyfriend yet

Although she doesn't have a boyfriend yet, she has already found a date in Erik Santos, champion of "Star in a Million" who is also in "Night of the Champions."

SANTOS. Volunteer escort of Rachelle

GO. Likes the Tom Cruise type of men.

'I've never had a boyfriend. I don't even have suitors. Raymond (Manalo) teases me that I might be a lesbian'

"Erik volunteered to be my escort," she exclaims. "He's a good friend.

"I've never had a boyfriend," she insists. "I don't even have suitors. Raymond (Manalo) teases me that I might be a lesbian. I'm not the type who gets smitten easily. I have to really know the guy first (before I can fall for him). I don't go for looks, I have to like his personality."

Rachelle's type? She says she doesn't dig pop heartthrob Justin Timberlake but she has a huge crush on the much older Tom Cruise. Go figure.

Singing homebody

Rachelle is not just another diva wannabe. Aside from singing, she also plays the guitar and the drums. "My father taught me how as early as when I was 5 years old," she shares. "He used to be a band singer. My mother also sings. I also took up formal lessons at Yamaha and at the Center for Pop."

Her father Oscar, who's part-Chinese, runs a machine shop while her mother Russell keeps the Go home. Rachelle is the eldest of four children.

Rachelle, who grew up in Pasig City, was a homebody who joined singing contests in their barangay. In 1990, she placed second runner-up in "Birit Baby," a segment of a noontime show.

Early this year, she copped the grand prize in "Search for a Star," a Viva singing tilt aired on Channel 7. She won a cool million pesos, a house and lot in Antipolo and a record deal with Viva Records.

Rachelle is now a regular on the "Asap" spin-off, "Fanatic" on ABS-CBN, which also features other hot young comers like the "SCQ" gang and "Star in a Million" finalist Christian Bautista.

Rachelle insists there's no rivalry between her and Sarah Geronimo, the winner of Viva's older singing contest on TV, "Star for a Night." In fact, Rachelle says, they are friends. "I teach her how to play the drums. But she hasn't gone out with me on gimmicks. She's so busy."

'Champions' repeat tonight

Rachelle says that the performers in the "Night of the Champions" concert, which was first staged last July 3 at the Araneta Coliseum, have bonded so well that they've become pals. Aside from Rachelle and Sarah, the other headliner is Erik.

The three champions' runners-up—Raymond Manalo, Mark Bautista and Christian Bautista—are their guests in the concert. "SCQ" love team Hero Angeles and Sandara Park also have a special number.

The singers of "Night of the Champions" have brought the show to key cities like San Fernando in Pampanga, Cebu and Bacolod. They will rule Araneta once again tonight, after which they will go on a three-week US tour in September.

Audiences in their concerts in San Francisco, Las Vegas, Chicago and New York will see only select numbers from "Night of the Champions," "because not all of us in the Araneta show will join the US tour," says Rachelle. "Erik will only perform with us in one city. He's very busy."

Bong Quintana, Backroom's VP for special events, is the stage director of "Night of the Champions." Bong was originally assistant to Bobby Garcia, who directed the first run of "Night of the Champions."

Tickets to the repeat of "Night of the Champions" are P1,000, P900, P750, P400, P250, and P100 and are available at the SM Ticketnet outlets, Araneta Coliseum, and Viva Concerts. Musical director is Marc Lopez.

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

WEDNESDAY **2BU** • THURSDAY **FOOD** • FRIDAY **FASHION/BEAUTY/HOME** • SUNDAY **SURPRISES**

Pretty Nikka Wahl came a-visiting with mom Tina Santos-Wahl and ended up with a style shoot in her itinerary

Fashion homecoming on pointe

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

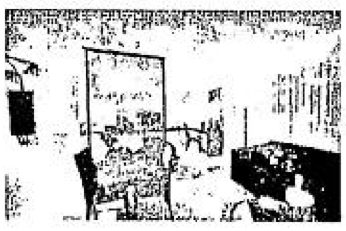
"SHE likes to dress me young and I like to dress my age!" cried the svelte fifty-something mom.

"But you don't look your age!" protested the 19-year-old daughter.

Thus went the playful banter between Tina Santos-Wahl and daughter Nikka. People may remember Tina not only as one of

FASHION/ D2

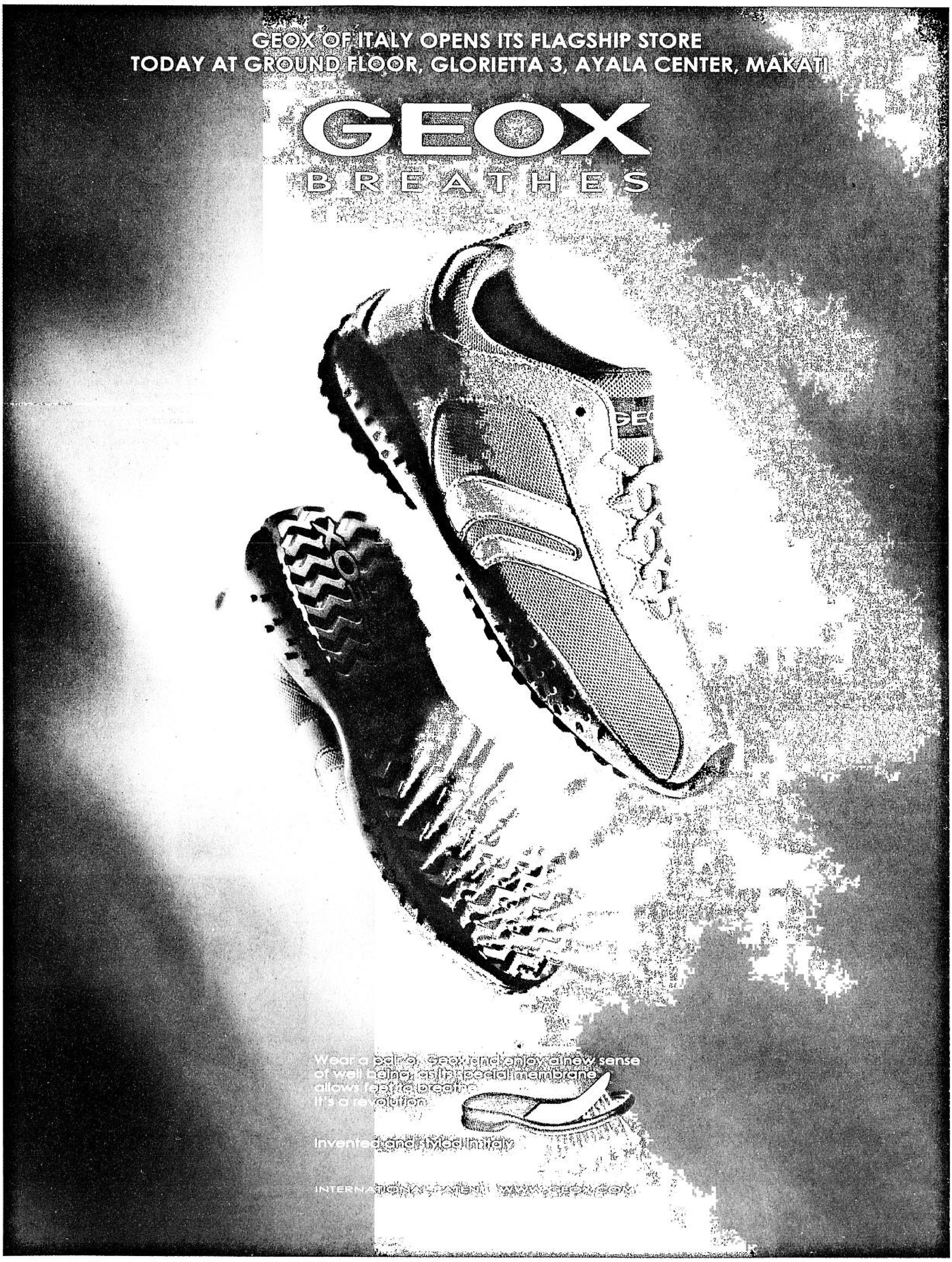
IN THIS ISSUE



POTTER with a garden /G1

TOASTING Pitoy Moreno /F2

HOUSE of contrasts /H1



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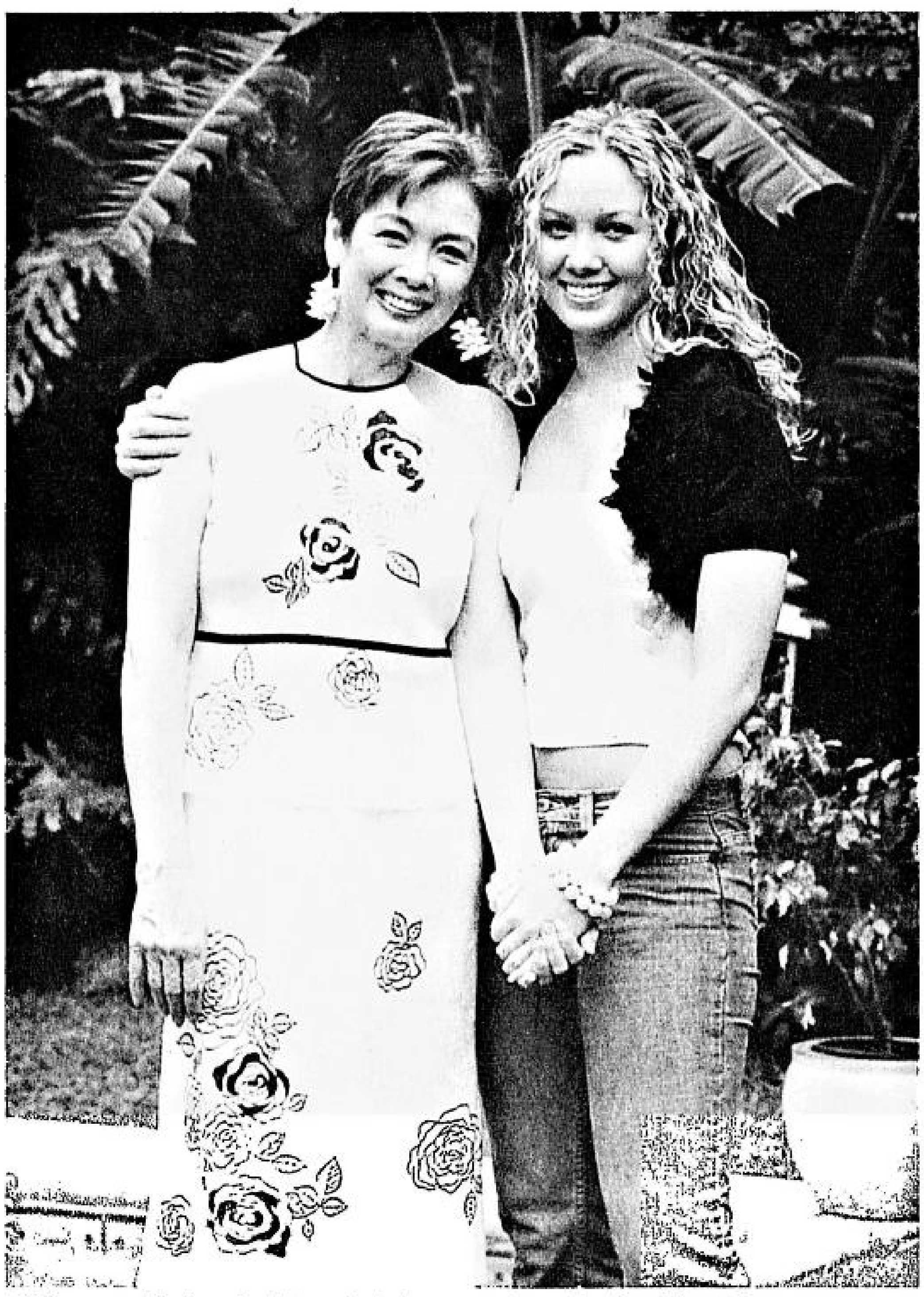


TINA wears a black-and-white ramie halter top and matching bias skirt with rose embroidery. Nikka wears a white ramie fitted corset with lace accent, black knit cardigan with organza roses and her own jeans.

NIKKA is in a fuchsia empire-cut ramie dress accented with multicolored floral embroidery and satin ribbon. Tina dons a green dress with blazer accented with multicolored floral embroidery and satin ribbons.

Fashion homecoming on pointe

From page D1

the country's top ballerinas in the '60s, but also as one of the prettier faces to have walked down the catwalk in that era.

In the midst of monsoon rains last month, the former ballerina left the warm confines of her home in Davie, Florida, to visit the Philippines with her daughter. Nikka is on summer break from her freshman year in college.

A few days before flying back to the US, mother and daughter obliged our request for a feature on them wearing designer Jeannie Goulbourn's clothes for SM.

Wahl and Goulbourn used to model together for foremost designers like Pitoy Moreno and Slim's (Salvacion Higgins). Tina also modeled for Ben Farrales and Aureo Alonzo; Jeannie for Cesar Gaupo. They were also schoolmates in St. Paul College of Manila ("Jeannie was a batch ahead of me").

After days of heavy downpour, Manila experienced one of its most horrendous traffic jams the day before the shoot. The Wahls were stuck in traffic for several hours.

"One thing I wouldn't miss is the traffic," Nikka said, rolling her eyes, "but I love it here!" She has been visiting since she was a little girl. "I love the shopping!"

Nikka is Tina's only child with husband Gary Wahl, her former ballet partner. But unlike her parents, she was never interested in dance. Not that her mom didn't try hard to prick her interest.

SWINGIN' '60S. Jeannie Goulbourn and Tina Santos-Wahl modeling for Slim's in their youth.

Born performer

"She was dressing me up in a tutu since I was 5," Nikka said.

"But she'd come home [from ballet class] with a long face," Tina laughingly recalled.

Nikka, however, was born a performer like her parents. She is an incoming music theater sophomore at the Florida State University School of Music. "I've been dancing since I was 5; she's been singing since she was 5," said Mom.

On Nikka's freshman year, said Tina, she was one of four who were awarded a scholarship. "They were only four," stressed the proud mom.

"Mom, we were six," corrected her daughter sternly, somewhat embarrassed. "Two boys and four girls."

This mom can't be faulted for her unabashed pride in her daughter's accomplishments. "We thought I could never have a baby. I had her when I was 36. When I learned I was pregnant, I prayed to have a girl… If God gave us something other than our talent, it's her." Apart from Tina's pretty face, Nikka also inherited her mom's bubbly spirit.

"I was *luka-luka* in school," Tina reminisced. "I was always noisy. The nuns had to think of ways to keep me busy so I wouldn't bother them too much. If you ask me what's my influence on Nikka, that would be it. Even as a child, she was never shy around people."

ROMANTIC white strapless A-line dress with black floral embroidery and piping

A founding member and the youngest principal dancer of Dance Theater Philippines, Tina left the country in the '70s to join the Harkness Ballet in New York. She and Gary later joined the San Francisco Ballet as principal dancers.

When they left the Bay area in favor of the Sunshine State, Tina taught at the Harid Conservatory in Boca Raton for eight years. Gary, meanwhile, hung his dancing shoes for a regular day job. "Someone had to pay the mortgage," Tina laughed, saying her husband is now self-employed. "But he can still dance," she hastened to add.

At present, Tina is a full-time faculty at the New World School of the Arts' Dance Division in Miami. Teaching has been quite a turnaround for the former prima ballerina. It has taught her to adapt to a new discipline. "When you're a performer, it's always I, me and myself. When you're a teacher, it's always you, you and you!"

Tina is a stern teacher. When Nikka would come home and show her mom what she learned in dance class at the university, she would quickly correct her daughter.

Respect

On this visit, the Wahls met some people in the entertainment business who volunteered to help Nikka launch a singing and acting career. The girl declined. "I noticed musical theater is not as supported [here] as pop music. I realized that just by performing for my relatives. They would ask, 'Do you know some pop songs?'" And she would find herself breaking into the Aretha Franklin classic, "Respect."

Nikka, who passes for a European, has, in fact, done some European commercials back home. She almost joined "American Idol."

"I printed out this really thick contract from their website. After reading it, I realized it wasn't the way I wanted to go. If you're with 'American Idol,' they own you. I want to finish school."

"Being a dancer is different from being a singer," Tina noted. "When you're a singer, the more you age, the better. Your voice matures and improves in time." The sell-by date of a dancer, meanwhile, is the exact opposite.

When came the opportunity to dance for Dance Theater Philippines in 1968, Tina couldn't pass up the chance. She quit school to concentrate on dancing. She was in her third year of mass communications studies.

After graduation, Nikka hopes to join a theater group on a national or European tour. "I love being around entertainers. [What they do] is an intelligent form of culture," she said.

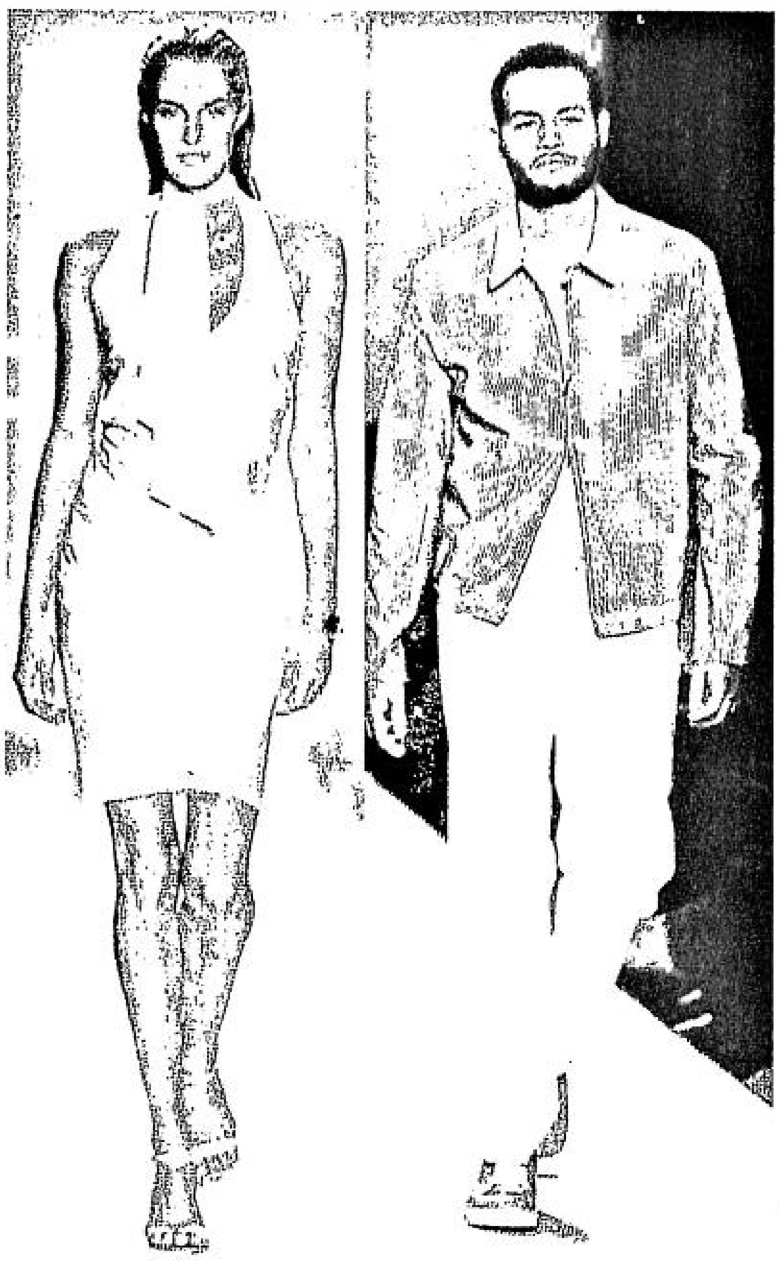
Who knows? She may even consider offers to perform in her mother's homeland someday.

FLORAL embroidered empire-cut ramie blouse and black pants

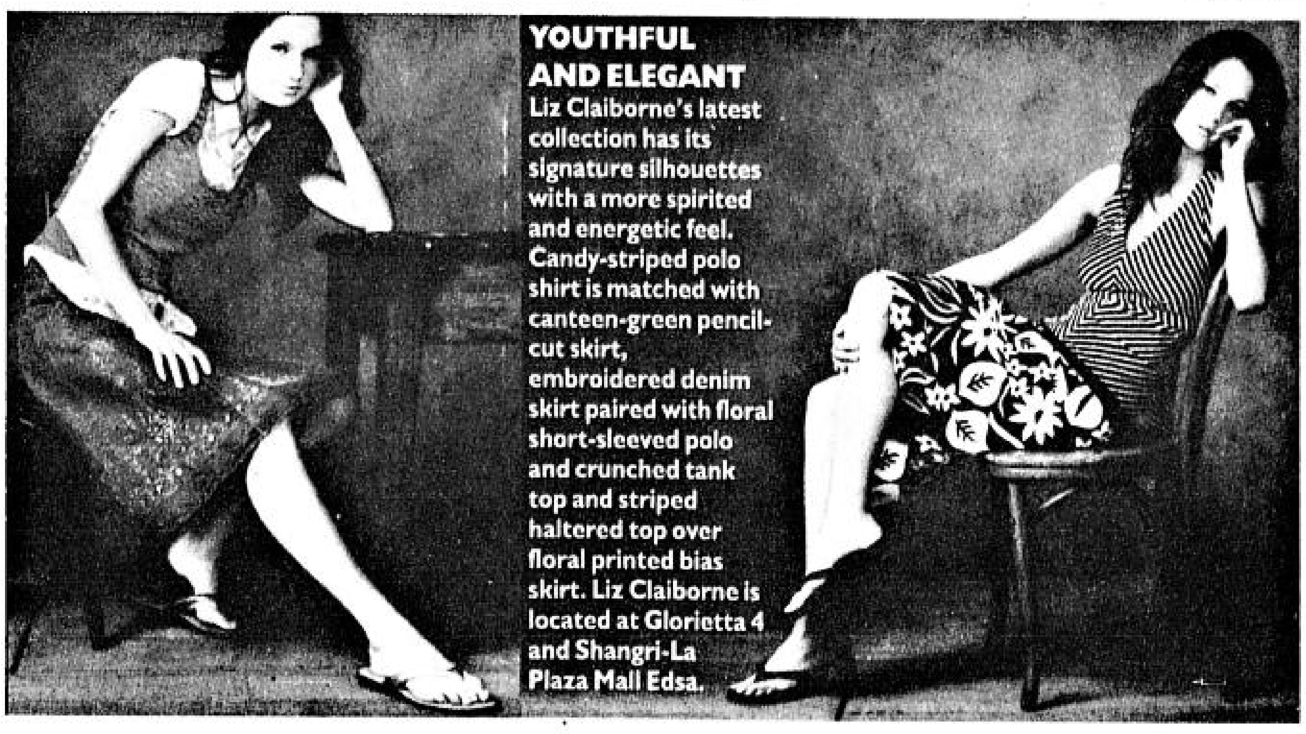
BLACK-AND-WHITE bustier with contrasting floral embroidery and white tiered gypsy skirt

CLOTHES BY JMGOULBOURN, AVAILABLE IN SEPTEMBER AT SM BOUTIQUE SQUARE
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY LEO POSADAS

Natty options for men and women



KING COLE
Nothing can be better for men than a pair of Kenneth Cole's Extra Sexy Fit pants. Women's numbers, on the other hand, are adorned with gorgeous clutches on skin, a roundup of chains and a chunk of silver ID neckpieces. Kenneth Cole is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc., with shops located at Rustan's Makati, Power Plant Mall in Rockwell, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, 158 Designers' Boulevard Alabang Town Center and Greenbelt 3.



YOUTHFUL AND ELEGANT
Liz Claiborne's latest collection has its signature silhouettes with a more spirited and energetic feel. Candy-striped polo shirt is matched with canteen-green pencil-cut skirt, embroidered denim skirt paired with floral short-sleeved polo and crunched tank top and striped haltered top over floral printed bias skirt. Liz Claiborne is located at Glorietta 4 and Shangri-La Plaza Mall Edsa.

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SOFTLY SPORTY
Jack Nicklaus' latest line of women's wear combines great fit with stylish elegance. Pastels brighten up tops with sporty stripes and duo tones. Jack Nicklaus apparel and accessories for men and women are available in Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Tower, Alabang, Cubao, Harrison Plaza and Cebu. Exclusively distributed by Rustan's Marketing Corp.

BIKER CHIC
Calvin Klein's musts for women these days include graphic motorcycle jackets, fitted tank tops and leather blazers contrasted with feminine tiered skirts, wide-leg pants and soft-slip dresses. For men, it's biker jackets, blazers, long-sleeved shirts, V-neck tees and flat-front trousers. Calvin Klein recently opened at the Power Plant Mall, R-1/L, Rockwell Center. Calvin Klein is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc.

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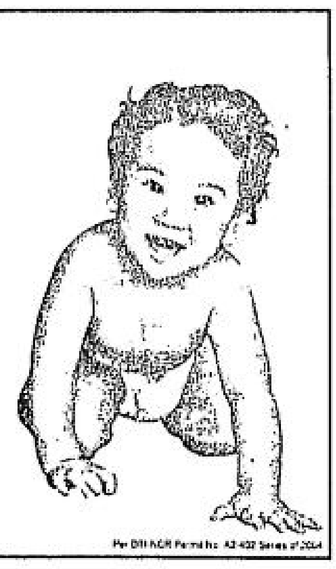


Geox's History and Mission of Footwear Innovation

Geox's breakthrough design lets the shoe breathe - cooling the feet while keeping water out.

Have you ever experienced sweltering feet before? It's a hot, heavy feeling that makes walking, or even just taking steps so uncomfortable, so painful and so hard to do. But we have sweltering feet to thank for because this is the reason why Geox shoes came about.

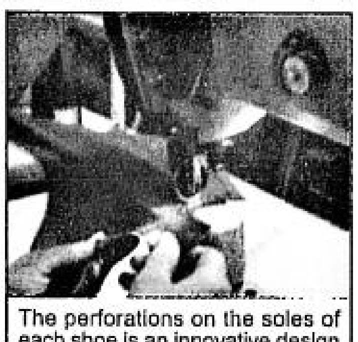
Geox shoes were created by accident. When its innovator, Mario Moretti Polegato's feet started to swelter during one of his visits to Reno, Nevada. The pair of rubber shoes he was wearing became somewhat like a heat chamber, baking his feet in the process. He then hit upon the idea of slicing holes on the soles of his shoes to allow sweat to exit, and to cool his feet. His simple idea worked!

Polegato believed he thought of something big and so he went on to share this wonderful insight with everybody. He knocked at the doors of the world's major shoe brands – Nike, Reebok, Adidas, Puma, Timberland, etc. but none of them bought his idea. Never giving up, Polegato decided to put up his own shoe company to be able to use his idea. Thus, in 1989, he trademarked "Geox" (*geo* from the Greek word for Earth, on which we stand upon; and *x* to stand for technology). He spent years perfecting the design of the sole after that.

Geox shoes use "perforations" on the soles that allow sweat and heat to exit while preventing water from seeping in. With this clever design, Polegato billed Geox as "the shoe that breathes" and began to manufacture his product in 1996. The Geox Group was born soon after with Polegato as the founder and main shareholder. It then established itself as a world leader in lifestyle and comfort footwear.

The company satisfies customers, particularly health conscious people, by delivering a perceived benefit, thanks to its very innovative footwear. This shows that Geox has been true to its mission of converting people into customers of "breathing products."

Mario Moretti Polegato - inventor and founder of Geox footwear.



The perforations on the soles of each shoe is an innovative design found only in Geox footwear .

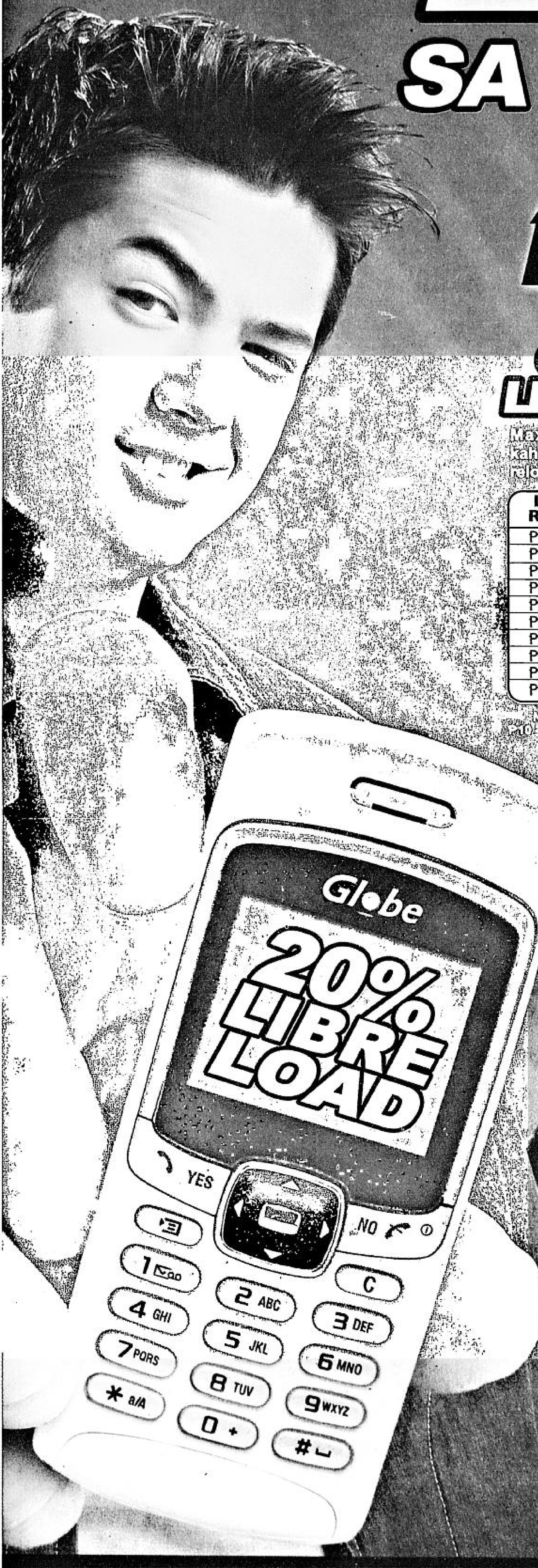
The company is also intent on becoming a household name in footwear and accessories and this is realized in its basic rules of treating its corporate belief of "Geox breathes" into a product mission and brand duty. This was also done by spending 10% of its revenues to advertise to its customers all over the world, and by investing on research and development to create patented products that will set the company apart from the others.

Now, Geox has a turnover rate of 40% a year and recently, it has achieved a production level of over 6 million pairs of shoes. Geox is now present, and worn in over 50 countries, including the Philippines.

Geox has clearly demonstrated to us how a necessity turned into a profitable endeavor and how it has helped spur a new, innovative product in Geox shoes. If you want to try on Geox footwear, or if you would like to see the cutting edge design for yourself, visit Geox's outlet at the Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati.

GEOX markets its footwear in unique Geox shops.

LIBRE LOAD SA GLOBE AUTOLOAD MAX



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Load Range	Libre Load
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P16-P20	P4
P21-P25	P5
P26-P30	P6
P31-P35	P7
P36-P40	P8
P41-P45	P9
P46-P50	P10
P51-P55	P11

Load Range	Libre Load
P56-P60	P12
P61-P65	P13
P66-P70	P14
P71-P75	P15
P76-P80	P16
P81-P85	P17
P86-P90	P18
P91-P95	P19
P96-P100	P20
P101-P105	P21

Load Range	Libre Load
P106-P110	P22
P111-P115	P23
P116-P120	P24
P121-P125	P25
P126-P130	P26
P131-P135	P27
P136-P140	P28
P141-P145	P29
P146-P150	P30

NOTE: Promo also open to Touch Mobile. AutoloadMAX denominations are P25 - P150 for Globe and P10 - P150 for Touch Mobile. The Libre Load expiry will follow the expiry of the load amount purchased.

See flyers for details. Promo period is from August 1 to September 30, 2004.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1453, Series of 2004

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See flyers for details.
Promo period: August 1 to September 30, 2004

Hurry! Promo until Sept. 30, 2004 only!

*You will receive Libre Load and a text advisory from Globe or Touch Mobile within 48 hours after load transaction.

touch mobile

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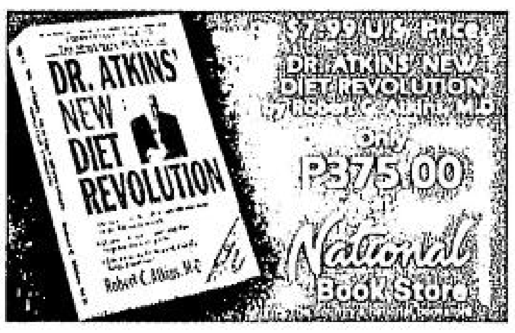

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Choco Bania

It's always a reality check when an illness strikes close to home. It suddenly brings things into perspective, and calls to mind the things that really matter

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

The gift of a new day

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

LAST week's column on South Beach diet drew a lot of interest that we can take a break from it with this episode.

I called a colleague—a former editor and columnist—to ask how her newfound cancer had been treating her. She just had surgery which removed her ovaries, uterus, cervix—the works—after the doctors found cancerous growth in them.

She's at her prime, quite young. Barely 40. She has a thriving career in Hong Kong, which brings her all over the globe dealing with high-caliber people. She's not only in the loop where fashion/lifestyle is concerned, she's also a master of it. She lives well, shops well and writes even better.

A month ago she called from HK to say, quite casually, she'd miss her deadline because she'd have surgery the next day after

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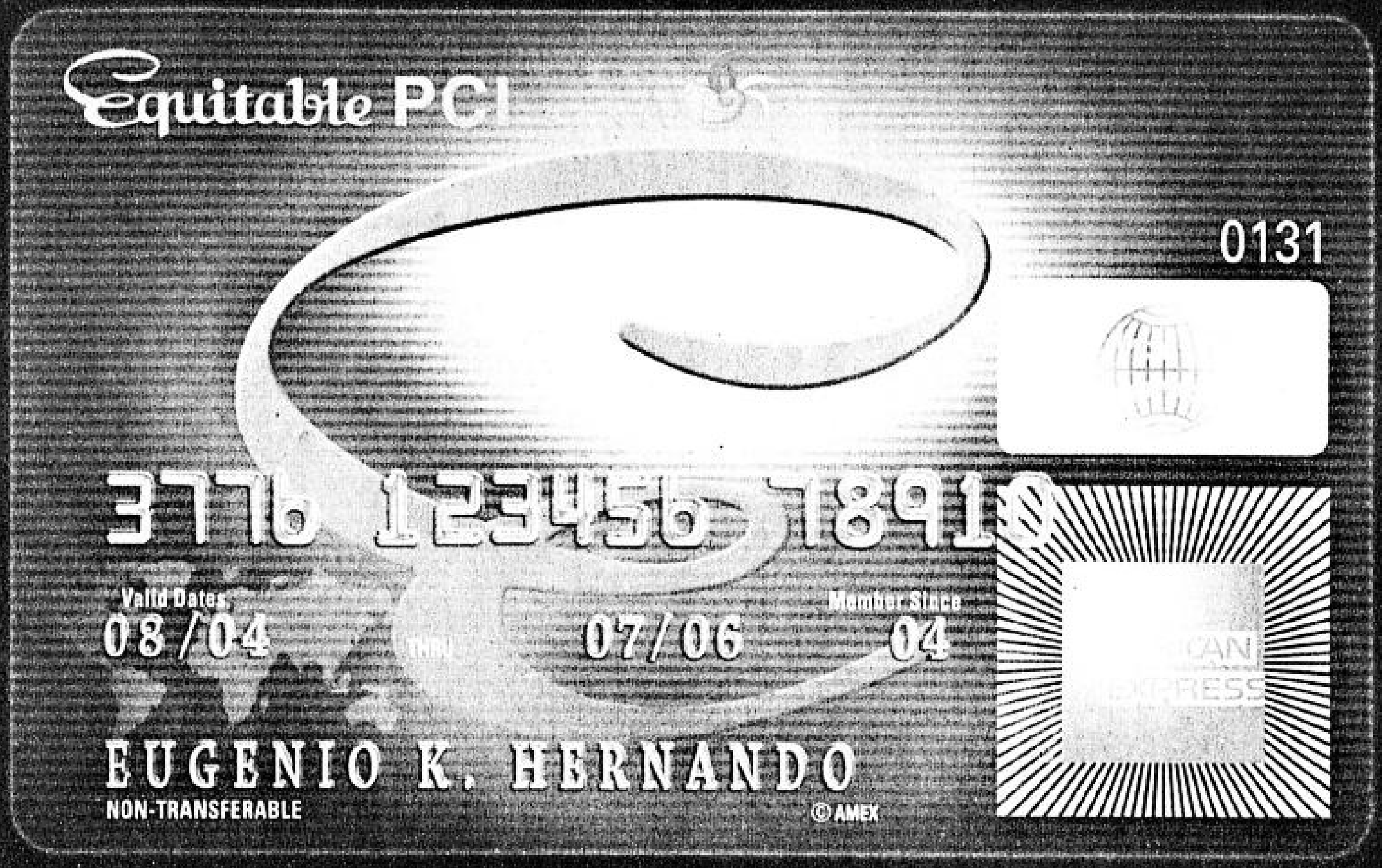

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DESIGNER Romy Glorioso surrounded by his favorite things

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AND PATIO RIZAL HOTEL, LUCBAN, QUEZON

Orientalia in Lucban

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Joan Bondoc

Romy Glorioso designs placemats, napkins and linens in fine Asian exotica

GLORIOSO fashions a silk blouse from an oversized scarf and pairs it with popsicle-orange linen slacks inspired by "Tausug" pants.

YOU'LL never think of finding an atelier for Asian home accessories along one of the narrow streets in Lucban, Quezon, but there is one right above a glass-and-aluminum builder's shop.

The small two-story affair mirrors its owner's fascination with things Asian, particularly beaded accent pieces and indigenous fabrics from India, Thailand, Korea and the Philippines.

Yet unknown to many, home accessories designer Romy Glorioso has been at it for 10 years now, quietly churning out stylized placemats, napkins, tablecloth, throw pillows, bags, bed covers and other linen materials that combine anything from exquisite Thai silk and beaded Indian sari, to textured Korean cotton and colorful Igorot woven fabrics.

"I tap the services of around five to seven tailors who help me make the finished products," he says, amid the din of traditional Indian music coming from his sound system: "But I do everything, from sourcing the materials to designing the items."

Glorioso has recently diversified to include resort and sleep wear with Oriental and exotic influences—from the flowing Japanese kimono to the loose pants worn by Tausugs down south. The designer's items, particularly his home accessories, have found a following among Metro Manila's lifestyle mavens, free spirits and expatriates.

Not a few executives, for instance, have found his 12-set placemats and table runners as ideal corporate gifts. Others can't seem to get enough of his chiffon shawl with silk edging. Lately, he has added huge, eye-catching Vietnamese lanterns into the mix.

Glorioso usually sells his products at bazaars and wedding fairs such as the one to be held at the New World Renaissance Hotel tomorrow and on Sunday. Not a few of these items end up in a number of high-end home stores in Metro Manila. In keeping with an earlier agreement he had with its owners, he declined to reveal the shops' names.

RACHEL, in printed silk kimono and loose linen pants, luxuriates amid satin and silk throw pillows and sheets with sari accents.

No mass production

If and when you chance upon his products, however, it pays to be early as this man doesn't believe in mass production. And even if he wants to, producing a certain item by the hundreds isn't possible due to limited materials.

"My market is kinda selfish," he says with a grin. "They don't want a particular item they bought to be seen in other people's homes."

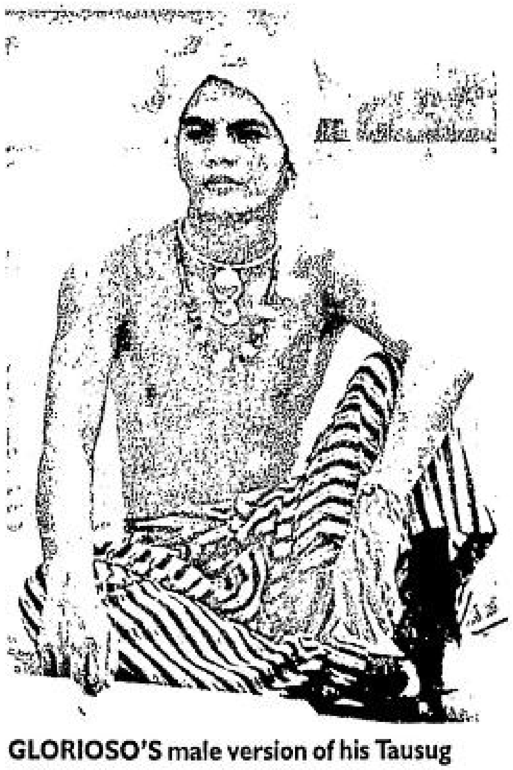
Of course, they can always go directly to his shop in Lucban (tel. 042-5408411) to get first crack at the merchandise. Like Glorioso, whose family hails from nearby Pagbilao, they might even get hooked on Lucban's charms and make it their permanent if not weekend home.

Glorioso's love affair with Lucban began in the early 1980s after he and his friends visited the town during its fiesta. Before working as a restaurant manager in Bangkok sometime later, he had already set his sights on one day calling Lucban home.

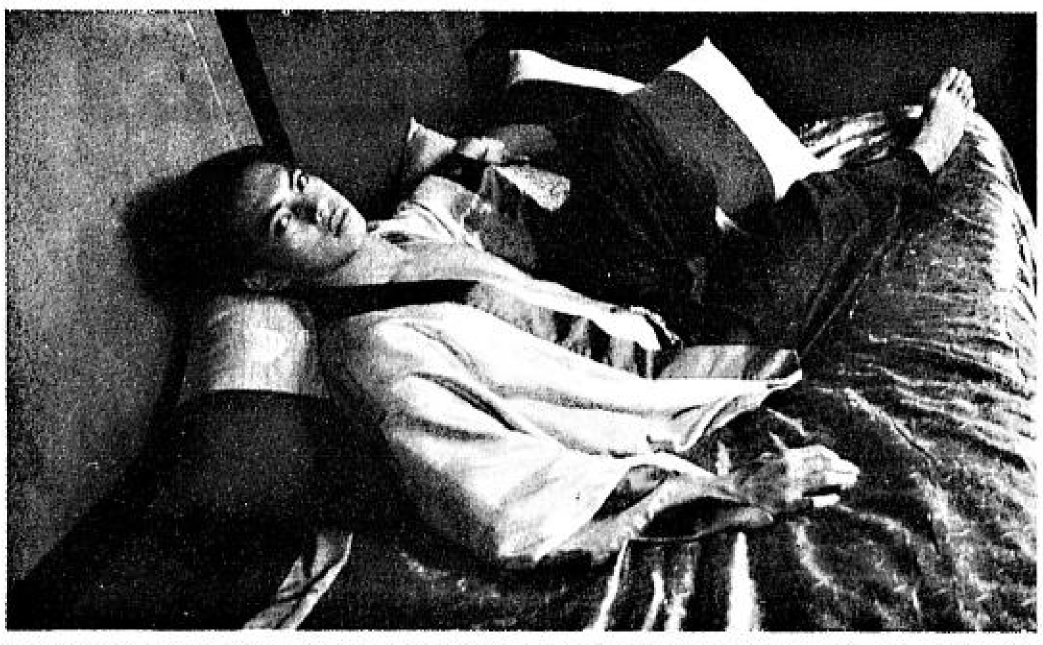
Meanwhile, his stint abroad opened his eyes to the richness of available materials beyond our shores. The experience also triggered his innate creativity. Soon enough, Glorioso also found himself scouring the markets of India and Vietnam in search of more materials for his future business.

"I always make it a point to travel regularly, especially to India and Thailand to keep myself abreast with new materials," he says.

Travel, for Glorioso, is good for the soul as well as for the bottom line.



GLORIOSO'S male version of his Tausug pants is light, sheer and airy.



PATRICK, in silk-on-silk robe and paisley black pants, loosens up in Oriental finery—satin, silk and sari.

EARTHY slumber features printed US cotton bed sheet with silk accent.

Seven from seven

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

THIS must be the season for environmental writing. A few weeks ago, a team from the Department of Agriculture and its Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) came out with "In Turbulent Seas." Its message was: stop over-extracting our seas.

Now, another volume comes to public attention, "Seven Lenses or Environmental Principles as if Adults Matters." It focuses on issues concerning our planet, our country and its resources. The writers—all seven of them—are members of the academe, specifically Miriam College, each one a specialist in the subject she writes about.

Taken together, the articles (each constituting a chapter) form a comprehensive study on seven important ecological principles, touching on what the environment must contend with in this country and what solutions are feasible.

In the beginning

Lilibeth C. Pinpin, writing on "Nature Knows Best," takes off from the story of Creation and Evolution as she traces the beginnings of our environmental systems.

Donna Paz T. Reyes explains why, "All Forms of Life Are Important," as she looks at our biodiversity and the value we put on it in an economic context. She concludes that there is a need for a national policy to regulate access of bioprospectors. In other words, use of our natural resources by companies and industries must not be allowed to get out of hand.

"Everything Is Connected to Everything Else," according to Sylvia R. Mesina. Plants and animals often exist in symbiosis. She cites the bats who feed on mangoes and avocados, bananas and other fruits that humans also like.

Some people may not realize it, but without the bats and other animals who use the resources around them, propagation of those same fruits will be slower or probably won't happen at all. In this true-to-life drama, if one participant is not present, nature's cycles will not be complete. Destruction of a habitat also affects animals and plants that live in them, usually leaving people without those food sources and, thus, impoverished.

Change is constant

To Angelina P. Galang, "Everything Changes," as biological evolution proves. Change, she says, occurs in cyclical, linear or random forms, and this is how the natural world is shaped. We see this in the Earth's rotation and its position relative to the moon and sun, the development of a cell into a different, more complicated species. Human society itself is in constant change.

In "Everything Must Go Somewhere," Ma. Teresa M. Oliva discusses the problem of garbage disposal. New technologies have dislodged nature's old ways of doing the job, and the Earth's natural ability to purify itself is being taxed by unfriendly chemicals and plastics that modern humans seem unable to live without anymore. The result is a backlash affecting our health. It is thus necessary to adopt an outlook where garbage is seen as a resource that can be made useful again.

Urgent need

"Ours Is a Finite Earth," declares Ma. Rosario G. Wood, referring to the conflict between a growing population and an earth that is constantly gasping for breath. By "finite," she refers to Earth's "carrying capacity," or its ability to take on the overload caused by abuse and overuse.

Clearly, she says, there is an urgent need to assess this capacity. And this must be done through a sustainable approach to our resources and better environmental management.

In "Nature Is Beautiful and We Are Stewards of God's Creation," Editha L. de La Cruz looks into why spirituality is essential in all the discussions in the book. Everything on this Earth, she says, has been put there by a Supreme Being. And the human's role in His plan is stewardship. She finds also that the major religions of the world converge on one common ground—the desire for harmony with nature and its Creator.

The authors explain they wrote the book for those who have just awakened to the awesome facts about our environment and how fast its rich biodiversity is disappearing. They go into the fundamental principles, seven of them, that should serve as guides for individual action. But "this is not an ecology book," they add, because it does not delve into scientific explanations. The principles are there, nevertheless, which the authors hope will help form the basics of environmental ethic in a simple manner.

For more information on the book, contact its publisher, Bookmark Inc., or Environmental Studies Institute, Miriam College.

Writer may be contacted at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

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Seminar on plant propagation

REY Santos and his plants, which are renowned for being well-groomed, simple and elegant

GARDENER and landscape designer Rey Santos will conduct a seminar on plant propagation as part of the Kadayawan Festival and Floriculture Congress, 2-5 p.m., Aug. 17, at the PTA Grounds in Davao City.

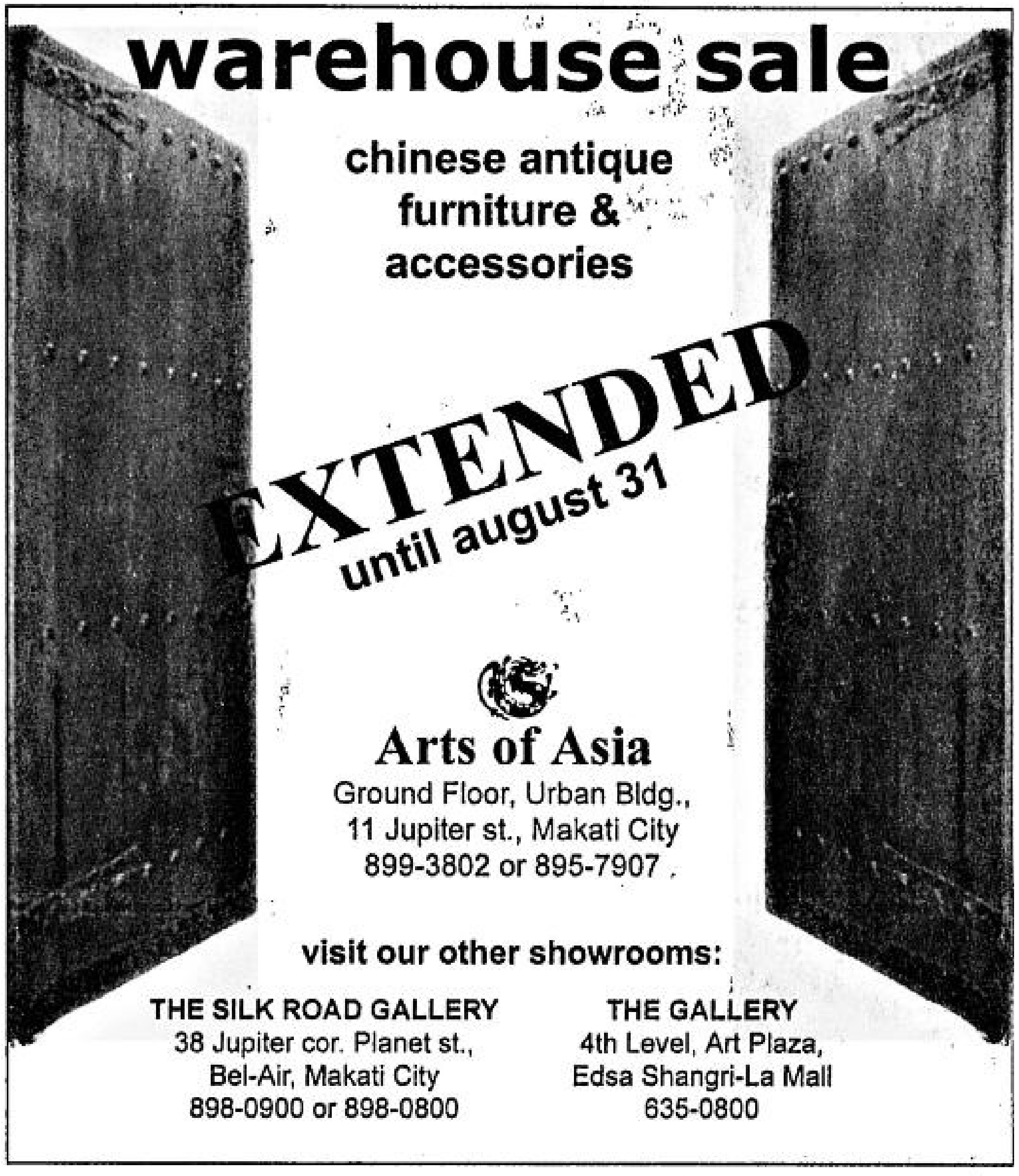
Santos is the owner of Rey's Garden at the Manila Seedling Bank on Quezon Avenue and a 3,000-square meter nursery in Guiguinto, Bulacan. He is currently working on a 7.8-hectare private resort in Calatagan, Batangas.

The Davao seminar will include tips on how to start a plant business and techniques in plant propagation.

Among the basic plant propagation tips Santos teaches are:

- All plants can be propagated, but the easier ones to grow include aglaonema or la suerte, ferns, dracaena, philodendron, croton or San Francisco, horsetail and flowering plants like white angel. Plants for propagation should be mature for a success rate of 90 percent.
- Propagation can be done either through cutting, growing seeds, or more complicated techniques like marcoting and vacuum.
- The right time to do plant propagation is mid-morning (around 10 a.m.), when it has lost its moisture or dew, and preferably on a "new moon" day.
- After propagation, the plant should be properly housed in a partially shaded area. Any type of soil can be used.
- The plant should be well groomed and properly cared for at all times. Talking to them will also help assure their healthy growth.

Call 0920-2828698.



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The gift of a new day

From page E1

the doctors had discovered the growth.

It didn't sink in as I listened to her. I merely heard myself telling her—don't think of it as that big a deal. Just manage this surgery, I said, as you would our deadlines, then we'd take it from there.

So last week, a good two weeks after the surgery, I thought of checking in on her. She sounded neither gloomy nor happy, just sober. The darn surgery, she said, took 12 hours and worse, the doctors accidentally punctured her "bladder" so that she had to have this contraption for two weeks for when she peed.

It was such a humbling experience, she said, she'd never be the same after this. We've been so materialistic (she could buy Burberry coat for her dog), she said, yet now you know what really matters at the end of the day. It's values, it's relationships… she went on. I just listened.

"Before, I'd gain two pounds and I'd panic," she said, "now it doesn't matter if I gain even 10 pounds. I'm happy just to be alive."

She also knows, she said, that from now on, life would have to include a regular CT Scan and a battery of tests to check if the treacherous cancer is back.

Her unexpected fate, she noted, must have struck fear in her work colleagues who are her age or even younger. "For it could also happen to them, right?" she said.

They say that more and more people, in their youth and prime, are being diagnosed with cancer these days. Must be the stress, they say. I'm neither a doctor, a scientist nor an actuarian, so I don't know if that perception has a basis in fact. What I know is, it's always a reality check when an illness strikes close to home.

It suddenly brings things into perspective. It calls to mind the stuff that really matters. In high school we had "The Little Prince" to put it: "What is essential is invisible to the eye."

Then in the in-between years, you spend day after day quibbling about a few pounds or kilos, or the right Botox or Obagi. However, experiences such as the above remind you with the force of a sledge hammer that, at the end of the day, you should just be happy that you're able and fit. Fit enough to be productive, to care and to nurture. Fit enough to bring a fighting chance into whatever you do.

Each morning, call it the gift of a new day. That's what my friend is trying to relish now.

Why lie about lipo?

Speaking of gift, I think I have the gift of spotting women who've had liposuction/sculpture, even if they deny it. (I don't get the chance to scrutinize men as much.)

It's amusing to note that while there are more and more women opting for this cosmetic procedure, there seems a growing tendency to lie about it. That's strange. You'd think at the rate media have done the topic to death, and how Rosanna Roces and Vicky Belo almost dueled to death over it, society would be more open about it. Apparently not. I noticed that Filipino women don't readily admit to having had one. "Just went on a diet," they love to say.

Spotting lipo-ed women is fun. How can you tell? Many ways. One is—face and body don't match. They mix-match. Like grunge fashion.

Concealing

Fashion is moving from "revealing" to "concealing," as Vogue puts it. After seasons and seasons of flashing flesh and skin, clothes are going sedate, if not modest. Anna Wintour writes, "What looks wrong this fall is the excessive fragmentary nudity (navel-baring, ultrashort, super-low-rise) that seemed compulsory for a while. Leave these styles to the inhabitants of the tabloid 'worst-dressed' pages."

This season's fashion spreads herald ultra-feminine slim skirt, nipped waist, layering, suit and still, ornamentation.

As Vogue puts it, "The judicious use of the button could be your single greatest sexual asset."

So button up.

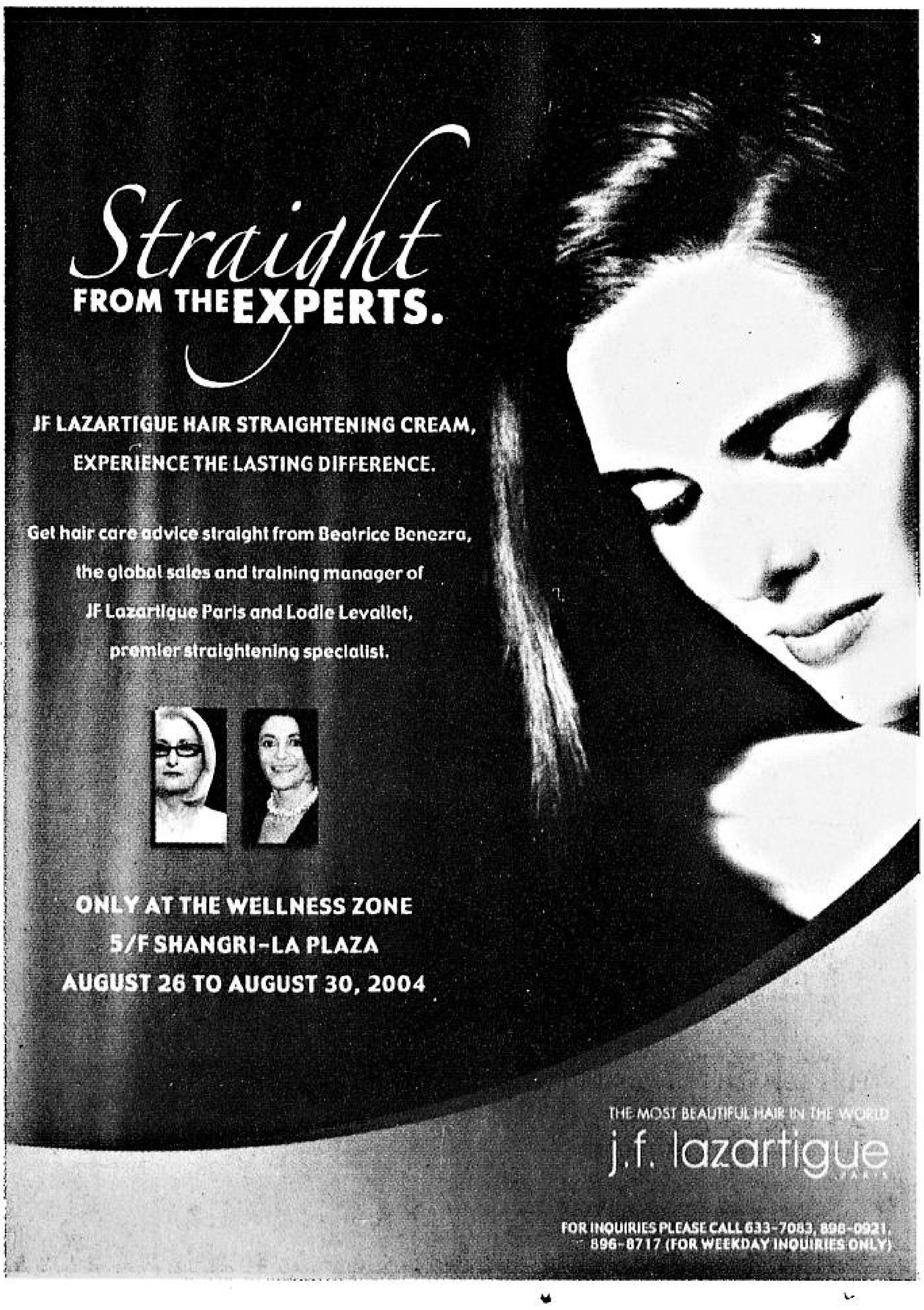
'Malunggay' shampoo

Just when you thought the mega hair salon businessman Ricky Reyes has no more tricks up his sleeves, out come the bottles of shampoo and conditioner made of "gugo," "ginseng" and "malunggay." They're selling like hotcakes.

They're actually good—soft, satin-finish-like, and smell fresh, not strong.

Today hair salons have gone beyond cutting/styling hair. They're pushing hair technology and science the way it's never been done. China and Korea have given hair salons access to products other than those manufactured by beauty firm monoliths. The consumer just has to be discerning—and well read.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net



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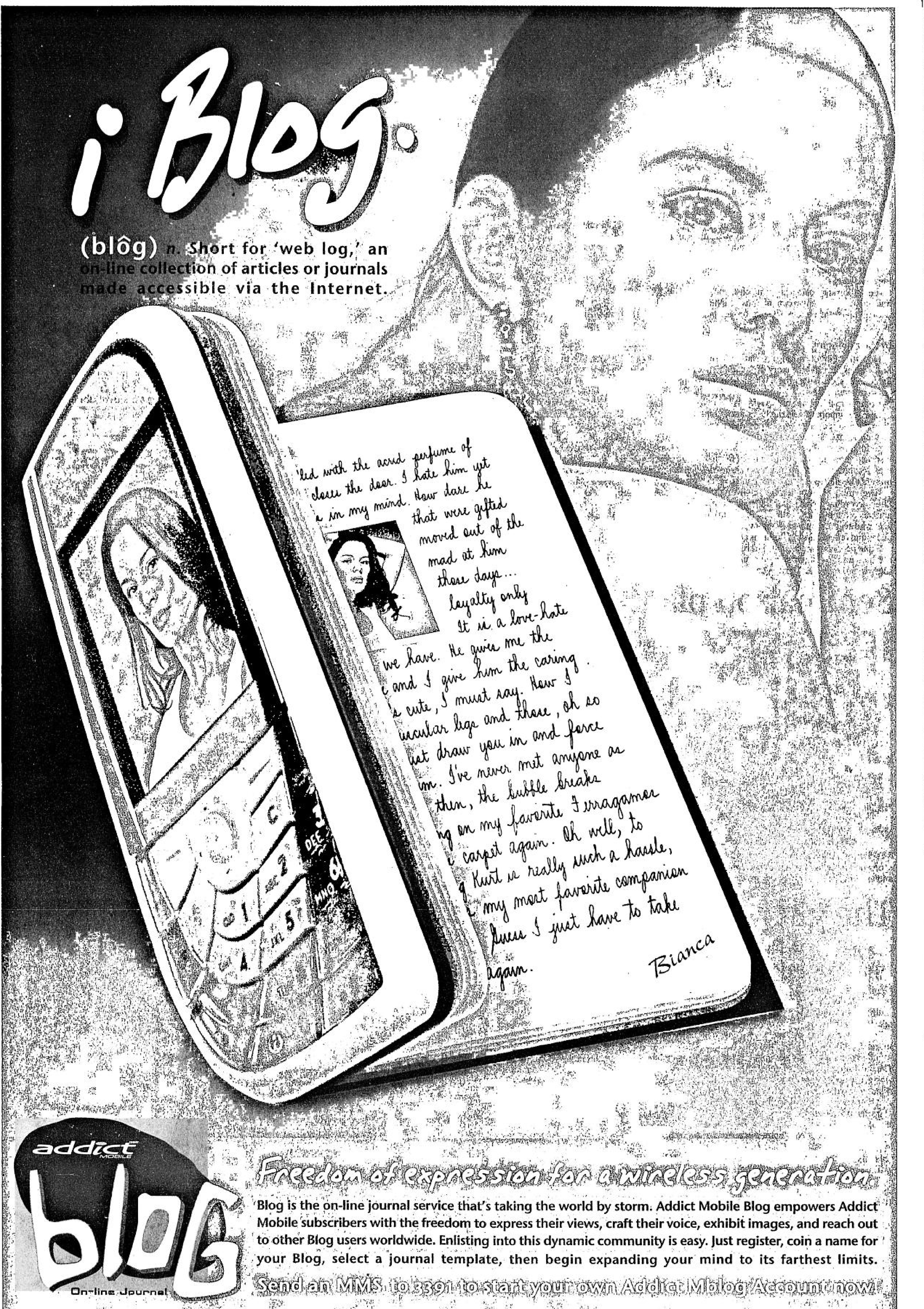
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Scent-illating beauty aids

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

IT happens to me a lot. I smell a perfume and instantly fall in love with it. But when I spray it on, my body chemistry clashes with it and I just smell downright gross.

The good news is, I have found a way around this problem. To bask in good scents without spritzing mist on my body, I just light candles or incense, or burn essential oils. A warning, though: the cost of some really good-smelling ones can shock you.

Diptyque candles (P2,250)

There's a reason these candles are so expensive. They are no ordinary candles, after all. Constructed like a perfume with a top, middle and bottom note so the fragrance keeps evolving, a Diptyque candle, when lighted, will fill the room with its scent in under a minute.

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CCP'S Ness Jardin, Vicky Cuisia, socialite Marissa O. Concepcion, Gina Lopez of Bantay Bata, hostess Imelda Cojuangco and designer of the hour Pitoy Moreno

DISTINGUISHED family names. Vicky Quirino Gonzales, Southern beauty Celia Diaz Laurel and Tingting de los Reyes Cojuangco

Manila socialites toast Pitoy Moreno

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on **Kodak Max**

COSMO Manille's most powerful and important society figures gathered for a yummy lunch hosted by ultra-glamorous patroness of the arts, **Imelda Cojuangco**, at the popular Shang Palace of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel in honor of her dearest friend, mega fashion designer **Pitoy Moreno**.

Pitoy will be staging a fabulous two-day fashion extravaganza at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on—take note, *palanggas*—Oct. 26 and 27. He was touched by the rousing reception, as supporters and pals from way back arrived in full-fashion force to celebrate his long and super successful career.

The must-go-to fashion gala is a grand collaboration of various performing arts groups such as the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, Bayanihan Philippine National Folk Dance Company, Ballet Philippines, Philippine Ballet Theater and Philippine Madrigal singers.

Charity-oriented young socialite **Marissa Orosa Concepcion**, looking super in her casual chic lunch outfit, spoke briefly about the charitable aims of the show.

Dubbed "Ginintuang Moreno," the fashion spectacle will have vintage designs that had been worn by some of the world's most popular women, along with new renditions of Moreno's signature elegance and beauty, to be modeled by his still gorgeous models from days gone by.

The first night will be hosted by Imelda Cojuangco for the benefit of the CCP, while the the second night will be hosted by Gawad Kalinga.

Tickets are available at P500, P1,000, P1,500, P4,000 and P5,000. Call 8321125 local 1800 to 1806.

Oh yes, when dining at the Shang Palace, order the two-way *lapu-lapu*. One-half of the fish is diced and stir-fried with veggies, while the other half has pieces of *lapu-lapu* fillet rolled up and deep fried.

Mmm, it's to-die for, *palanggas*.

Natural debut

A sunset soiree was the fitting Philippine debut of Decleor, the French natural skincare brand, at the top of the posh Fraser Place.

Highlighting the launch was a talk about aromatherapy by **Jeannie Javelosa**, topped by an afternoon of blissful Decloer experience, thanks to the nurturing hands of Nurture Spa.

Decleor's 100-percent pure, 100-percent natural and 100-percent effective essential oils are the fruit of scientific expertise over years of intensive research, I was told.

For over 25 years, Decleor's Aroma Skincare has always come in its purest form. Its lavender plants are grown in the north of France.

Cooling it during the au natural afternoon were Rustan's executives **Rhoda Campos**, **Boogie Trinidad** and **Toni Abad**; Joey's Ria Romero, **Paula Nocon**, Mega's **Liza Ilarde** and **Vicky Tensuan**, dahlings.

Aside from the Aromessence, other Decleor products include Aroma White (10 products for whitening and brightening), Aroma Spa Tonic (fragrant skincare program), Decleor For Men and Decleor Sun Care.

Decleor is distributed here by Luxasia Inc. Retail products are exclusively available at Rustan's Makati and Shangri-La Tower. Decleor treatments are also now available at Nurture Tropical Spa in Tagaytay City.

Hotelier's ball

The prestigious ball of the Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines (HRAP) brought the industry's hotshots together to raise funds for the scholars of the Hotel and Tourism Institute of the Philippines, *palanggas*.

Called Aquatica, the ball had for its theme the fascinating underwater world, recreated at the grand ballroom of the New World Renaissance Hotel.

Leading the pack was New World general manager and chair of the HRAP Ball, tall and dashing **Stephan Stoss**, *naturellement*. The ball was attended by namedroppables from the tourism world such as HRAP's elegant executive director **Beth de la Fuente**; Peninsula's well-loved GM **David Batchelor** and his gorgeous wife, fashion plate **Marilou Toda-Batchelor**; the grand dame of restaurateurs, **Leonor O'Leary**, with her son, HRAP VP for restaurants **Humprey O'Leary**; InterCon GM **Stefan Voogel**; Hyatt Regency's **Choy Baltazar**; LJC's **Jun** and **Lorna Ambas**, and **Eugene Tamesis**, the director of marketing of the soon-to-rise Hyatt Casino.

Having a great time partying were Philippine Convention and Visitors Corporation's **Cynthia Carreon**; Philippine Airlines president **Avelino Zapanta**; and Cruise Professionals Inc. president **Eve Cayaban**.

Also there were New World Renaissance Hotel's **Atab Rivera**, **John Kwok**, **Geuel Auste**, **Frances Peria**, **Ana Vergara**, **Nelson Balilo**, **Jeff Hobson**, **Susan Roxas** and the beautiful **Monique Toda**.

The big come-on was the major raffle draw.

Prizes included a round-trip ticket to Taiwan, courtesy of Eva Air; a round-trip ticket for two to Cebu, courtesy of Philippine Airlines; plus trips to Hong Kong, Singapore and other exciting places.

But the grand prize was a cool, seven-night Caribbean Cruise, courtesy of Princess Cruises, natch. And the winner is... Versia Enterprises owner **Vergilio Sia**. The winner will tour such exotic islands as the Bahamas, St. Maarten and St. Thomas.

A biggie in the resto business told me that in New York, on a holiday at this fancy, world-renowned hotel, he asked for a wake-up call at 6 o'clock and you know what?"

"What?" I asked.

"Well they rang me up at 5 o'clock just to tell me that I had another hour to sleep, would you believe?"

CHARITY-ORIENTED women. Nini Licaros and Eva Hernandez

SUPER PALS. Woman of substance, shipping magnate Mila How, with Belize consul Helen Ong

OLD-RICH socialites Ching Montinola and Madeleine Lim

THE LUNCH BUNCH. Tereret Liboro and Frannie Jacinto

PITOY with Menchu Concepcion, Offie Recto and Dr. Elenita Binay

WOMAN of the hour, Nurture's Spa owner and Spa Association president Cathy Palma (right), with Doris Sinnathurai and Kim Stiles

DECLEOR brand manager Vanessa Mayuga and Luxasia general manager Mia Cuenca

JOEY@92.3's pretty Ria Romero with Kate Rodrigo

JOSIE Lichauco and Carol Masibay

HRAP VP for restaurants Humprey O'Leary

SAILING. Cruise Professional Inc. president Eve Cayaban awards the grand prize of a seven-night cruise to Vergilio Sia.

NEW World Hotel's beautiful secret weapon, Monique Trinidad Toda, with partying guest Cora Ortega

HOTSHOTS in a row. New World Hotel's senior executive John Kwok, the hotel's First Couple Stephan and Katriona Stoss, Geuel Auste and Atab Rivera

NOEMI Cancio, St. Scholastica College's president Amparo Santos, Lyceum of the Philippines dean and HRAP board member Edda Henson, Benguet Corp. consultant Jess de la Fuente, Asian Development Bank consultant and HRAP executive director Elizabeth de la Fuente

Scent-illating beauty aids

From page F1

After the candle expires, the scent stays on like a woman's perfume. My favorites are Pomander (orange, grapefruit and spices), John Galliano (tobacco flower) and Oranger (orange and cloves).

L'Occitane candles and incense

Check out this brand's home range of candles and incense, as they make great gifts both to yourself and to friends. The home range candles are priced at P600 each. The best sellers are Green Tea, Vanilla and Blackberry.

ORIGINS Sleep Time On The Spot gel

Thierry Mugler's Angel candle (P3,200; P2,400 per refill)

I fell in love with the scent of this candle when it first came out in the 1990s. Alas, the scent did not love me back!

Still, I enjoy the scent of vanilla/chocolate in any room in the house without my body chemistry messing it up. Angel is a big candle that burns a long time, but if you want a similar scent but of a more reasonable price, try L'Occitane's Candied Fruit candle (P600) or incense (P575).

The Body Shop candles

Moonflower is a grapefruit and white floral combination that can lift your spirit. Did you know that the actual moonflower only blooms at night? But The Body Shop has found a way to extract its essence while in full bloom.

Moonflower, as well as Calm Water and Oceanus (marine scents) and Vert de Bamboo (herbal greens), are available in burner oils for P175 each. The store also sells very elegant metal burners for P650.

TBS Home Fragrance Oil in Oceanus

Sleep enhancers

Some people have misgivings about leaving scented candles on while they sleep because they may be an accident waiting to happen. Incense sticks, meanwhile, seem to burn out well before one dozes off, and it's really frustrating to get up and light another one. Sleeping pills are, of course, addictive and may eventually strain the liver when taken continuously.

So here are a few sleep aids I've found.

Earth Therapeutics has a kit called Slumber Party (P1,350) which contains a sleeping mask, gel eyelid compress, comfort cream for the body, and pillow mist.

The pillow mist and cream contain a blend of lavender and valerian to ease you into a peaceful slumber. For an extra P475, you may get a sleep balm to be applied on your pulse points to reinforce drowsiness.

Origins has Sleep Penchance to Dream Pillow Mist and Sleep Time On the Spot Gel. They contain valerian, orange, cinnamon, neroli, and vanilla. The line also includes a milk bath and bedtime diffuser. The vanilla in the mix gives a feeling of comfort and indulgence.

DIPTYQUE Oyedo grapefruit-scented candle

L'OCCITANE Green Tea candle

The Body Shop has a lavender aromatherapy collection that induces great relaxation. In the shower, I scrubbed myself with the Lavender Milk Bath Powder, washed it off with the Shower Gel and sprayed on the Body Mist, and I was out like a light.

Lotion is optional for those with no problem with skin dryness. The store also offers the Bergamot line to help wake you up in the morning. This line is more expensive, since it uses real essential oils and not the synthetic fragrance of the home collection.

Earth Therapeutics is available exclusively at Beauty Bar; Diptyque, Origins and Thierry Mugler at Rustan's; and L'Occitane at Essenses.

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The Truth Behind The Lipo, Nose Job Or Botox You're Dying to Get

All about beauty this August

COSMOPOLITAN magazine's August issue is the Big Beauty Special, filled with everything you'd need to look and feel beautiful—from learning how to strut your stuff to getting the scoop on what beauty products really work. Plus, it's unveiling the Cosmo 2004 Beauty Awards.

Get a copy of this latest issue and choose among the winners of the Beauty Awards. Then, e-mail your name, landline and mobile numbers, age and address to cosmopromos@summit-media.com.ph. Place Beauty Awards (name of product you want to win) as the subject. Winners will be notified via telephone.

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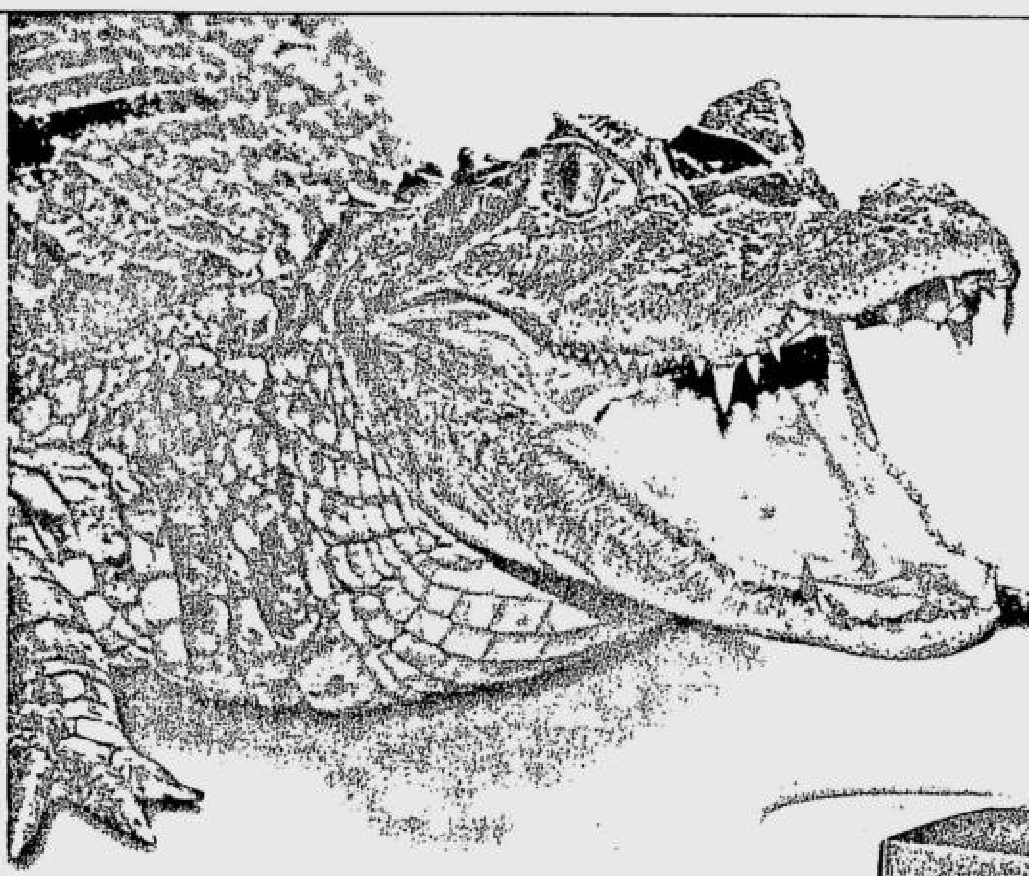
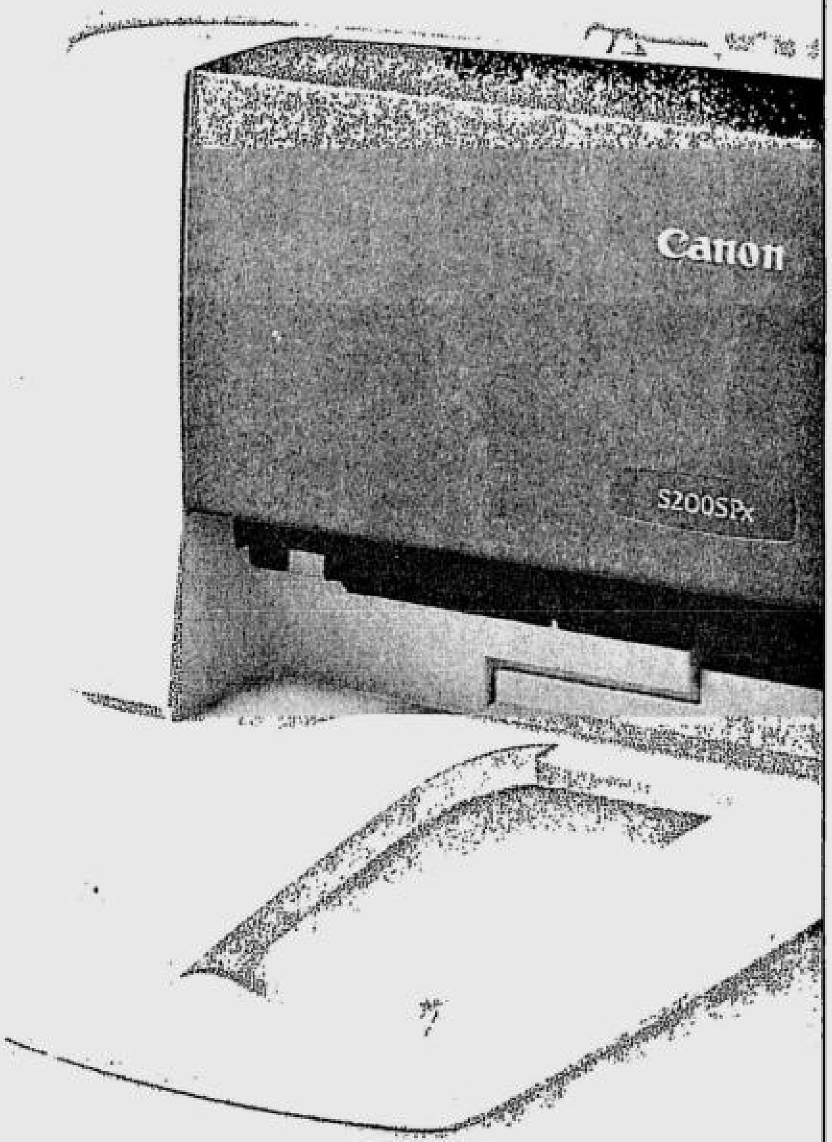




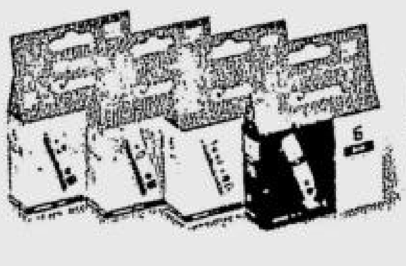
YOU'RE PUTTING YOUR PRINTER AT RISK!

More than poor quality printouts, using refills, fake ink cartridges, and compatibles for your Canon printer can literally take its life.

Using refills, fakes and compatibles void your printer's warranty.
Refills refer to the ink used to "refill" Canon cartridges. While ink cartridges that illegally use the Canon brand are called fake. On the other hand, compatibles are other brands of ink cartridges used in a Canon printer. Experts consider all three kinds of ink cartridges hazardous and may be the main cause of breakdown of Canon printers.

So if you think you're saving money by purchasing refills, fake ink cartridges, and compatibles, think again. You'll pay dearly with costly repairs and sacrifice the life of your printer itself.

To be sure that you got genuine Canon Inks, use the Canon Handy Viewer to look at the Canon Security Sticker —the left hole should be black, while the right hole should contain the Canon logo.



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A world of hair color

MOST hair color treatments promise certain results but leave you with short-term wearability, a limited range of shades, painstaking applications, and worse, damaged hair.

But not with Schwarzkopf Professional's Igora Vibrance, a high performance tone-on-tone color treatment with a deep caring formulation. Its Pure-Color Technology, a unique blend of color pigments that deeply penetrate the hair, delivers vibrant colors and intense shine that lasts up to 25 washes, much longer compared to other non-permanent treatments. It also offers more gray coverage, blending up to 70 percent of gray hair.

Igora Vibrance gives you seven exciting "color worlds" to choose your favorite shades from: Naturals and Moonlit Nature for earthy tones, Copper Glow, Chocolate Shine and Golden Charisma for rich, golden hues and Purple Rays and Red Magma for expressive, high-voltage fashion colors.

With 40 eye-catching shades, Igora Vibrance's extensive color palette gives you the ultimate freedom and flexibility to experiment with long-lasting coloring without the permanent commitment. Likewise, professional hairdressers will find Igora Vibrance faster to apply compared to other hair-coloring products, affording their clients lesser waiting time at the salons.

Igora Vibrance also has Intensive Care Complex that fortifies the hair with strengthening vitamins and caring lipids. It restructures the hair from within, making it smooth, supple and shiny.

In addition to Igora Vibrance, Schwarzkopf also offers the first lotion developer with caring ingredients for optimum hair care throughout the color treatment process. This hair lotion leaves a light, fresh fragrance on the hair.

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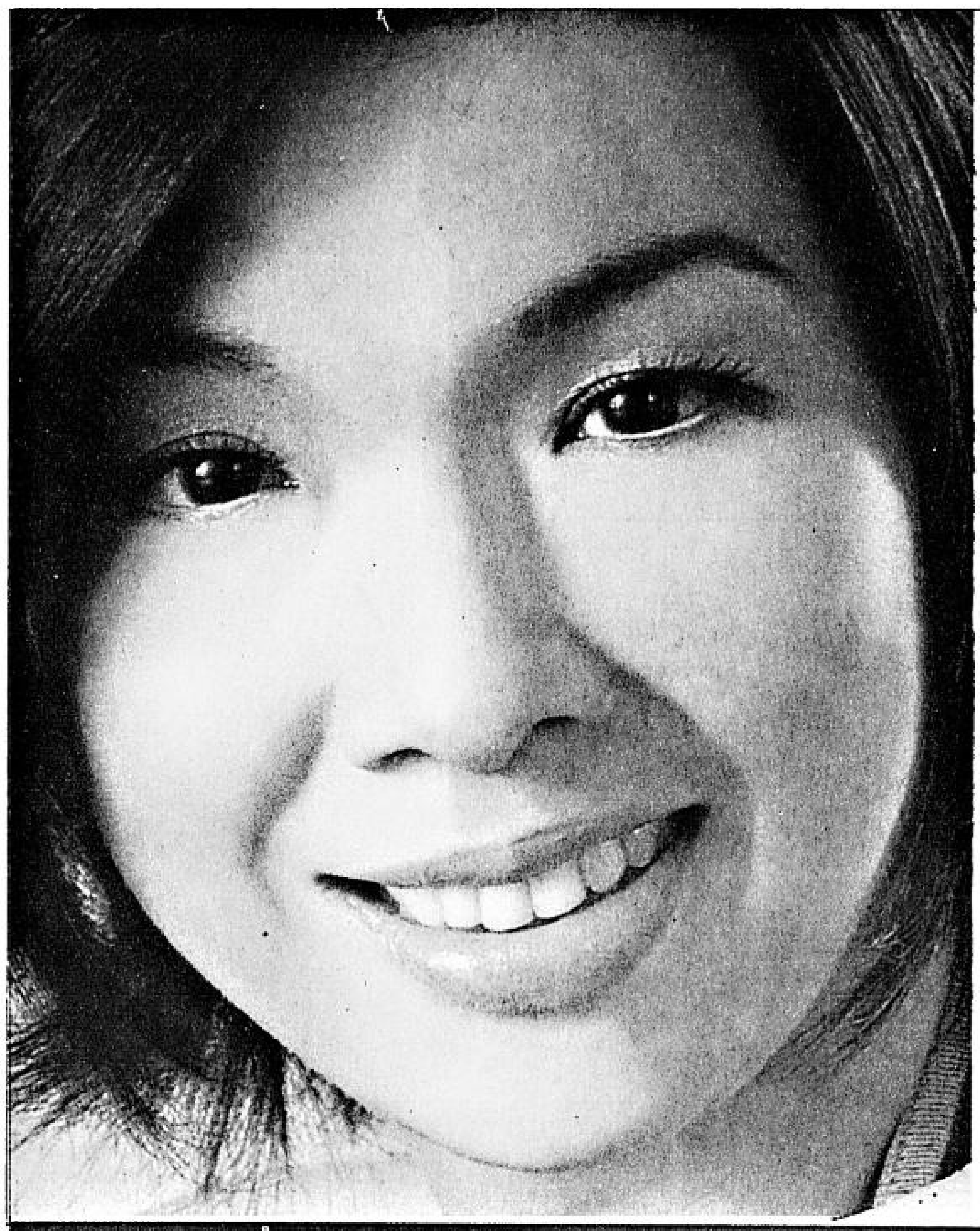

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Isay Alvarez, Actress

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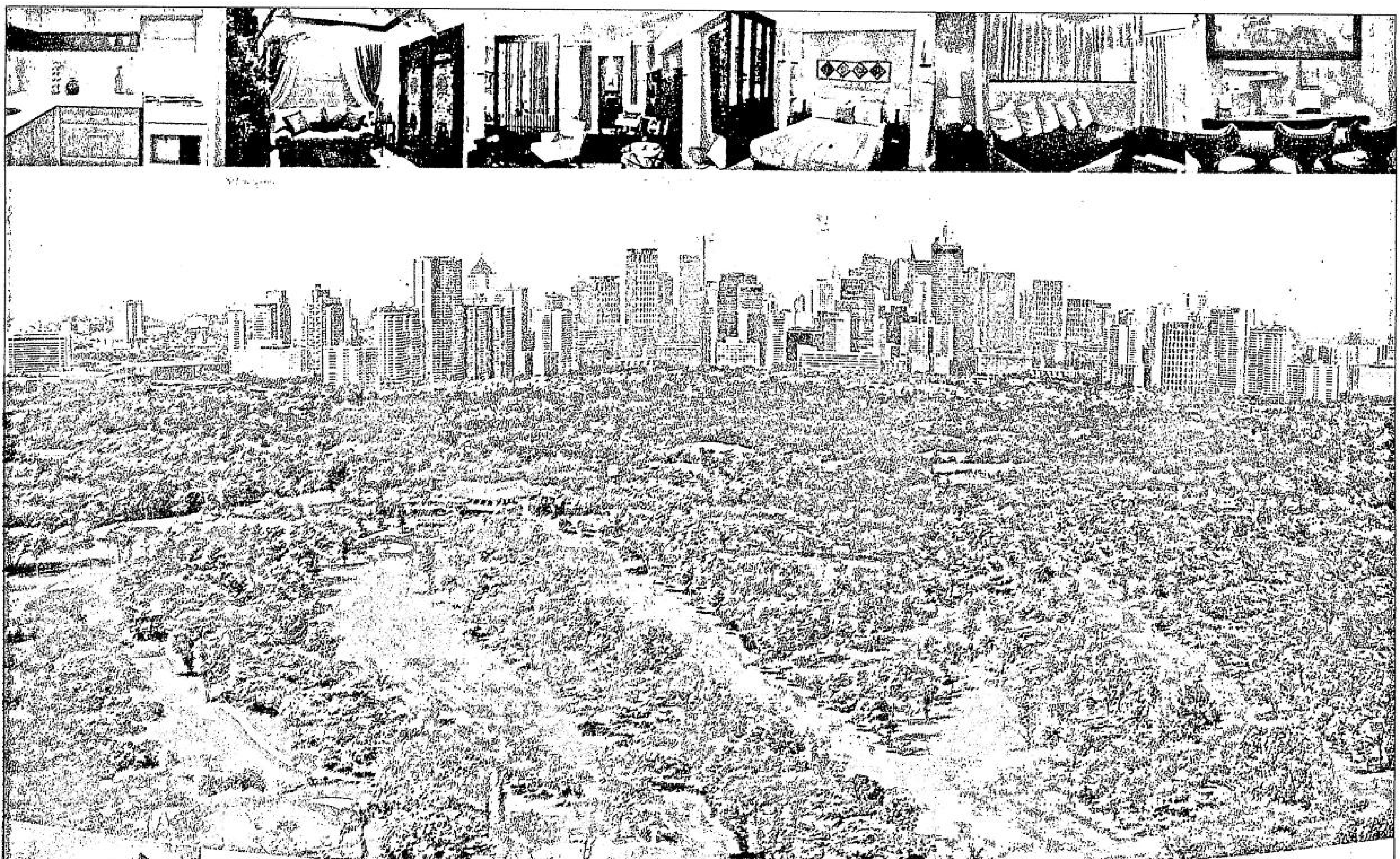

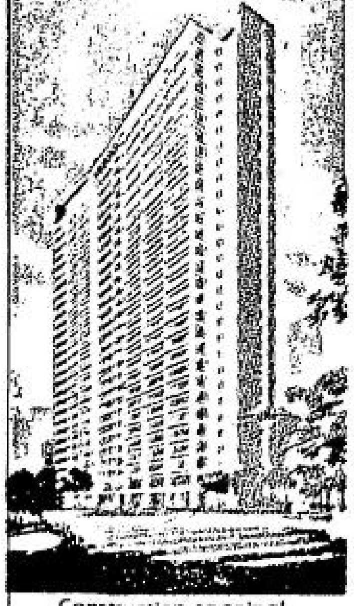

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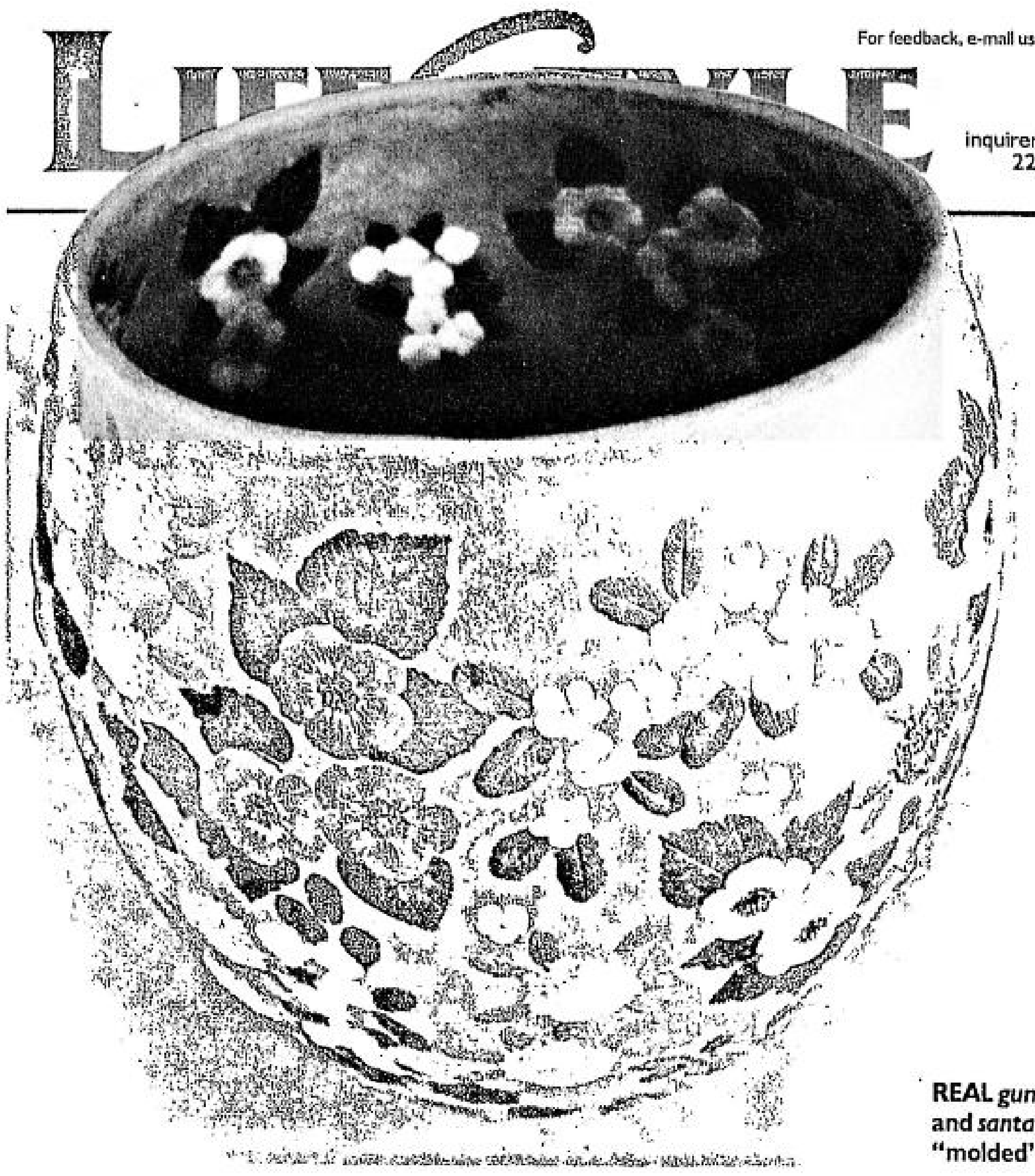
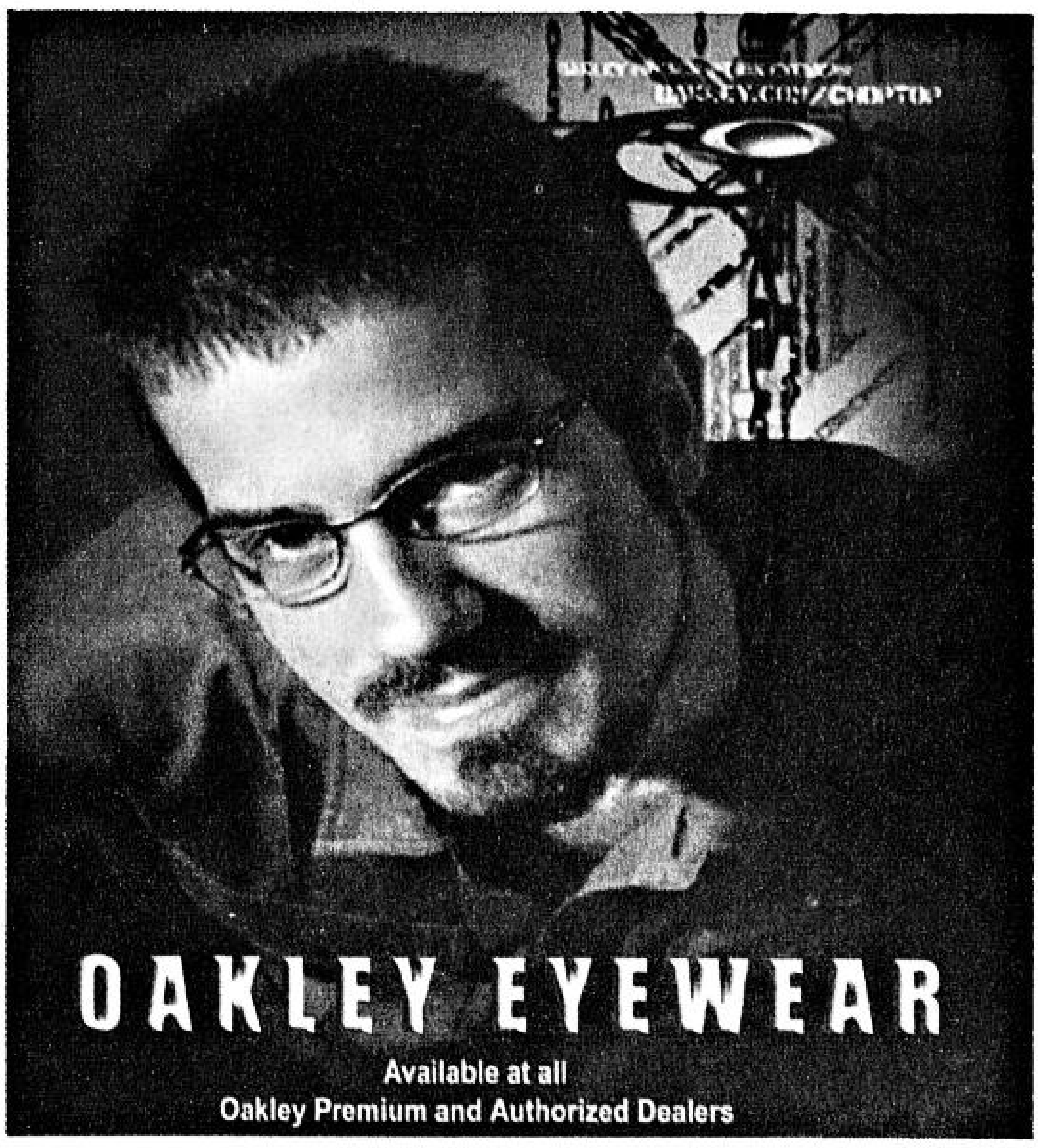


REAL *gumamela*, *chichiricas* and *santan* have been "molded" into this *tapayan*.

Ugu Bigyan's place is distinctive not so much for its plant collection as for its accents and accessories



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Potter in the garden of 'fossils'

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Joan Bondoc

UGU Bigyan does not have the rare, exotic and expensive species many serious plant lovers take pride in. In fact, he has what one is likely to find in gardens of people who want the green but don't want the hassle of special care for highly sensitive plants.

So the pottery artist has a selection of popular palms, ferns, bromeliads, philodendron, spathiphyllum, sansevieria and even the prolific "water lily" that is the bane of the Pasig River and several other bodies of water.

Whether it was by choice or accident, the presence of common varieties in Bigyan's garden in Lusacan, Tiaong, Quezon helps to focus the visitor's attention to the accents and accessories rather than the plants. Even if one did not know who the garden's owner is, tell-tale signs of his craft are strewn all over the sprawling place.

Garden showroom

For one thing, tiny *nipa* huts scattered all over serve as drying areas for new pottery pieces. A concrete rectangular structure almost at the back of the garden is the showroom for the distinctive Bigyan ceramic items that have made the name "Ugu" (short for Augusto, one is told) synonymous with unusual and beautifully crafted pottery and other clay products.

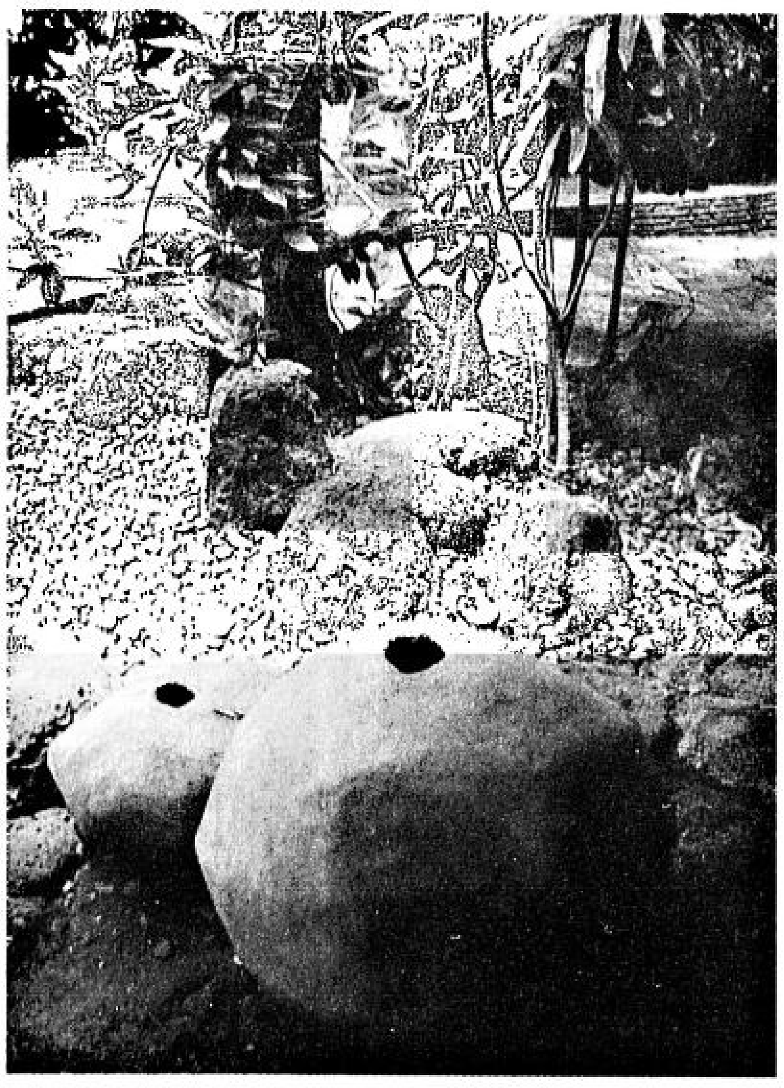
Not surprisingly, the potter has fashioned a garden that weds his craft and his interest in plants. Bigyan said his garden sat on the old family property while his house was built on the adjoining land that he acquired. The artist said he did the garden all by himself, choosing to leave untouched the fruit and other trees that were already on the original family lot. He simply added the ornamental plants and the different structures.

Glazed ceramic jars and pots filled with plants are casually tucked in a corner or put on a pile of logs or a garden table, under a tree or a shrub. Shards from broken pottery items and concrete were mixed to make crudely formed spheres and crooked-lined garden furniture.

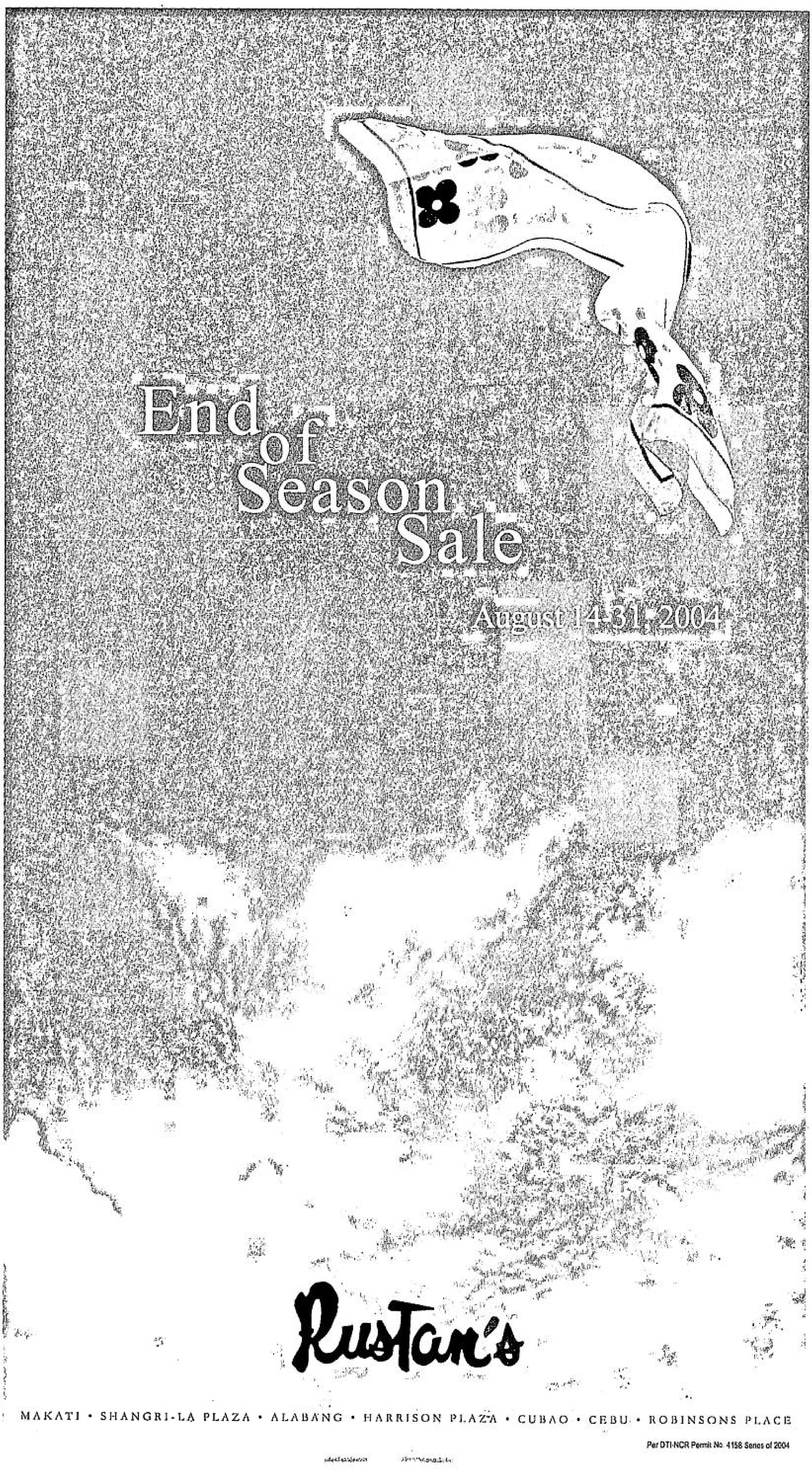
Instant 'fossilization'

But more distinctive are the footpaths, floors, concrete

POTTER/ G2



BIGYAN mixed pottery shards from his shop and concrete for these *tapayan*-like garden accents.



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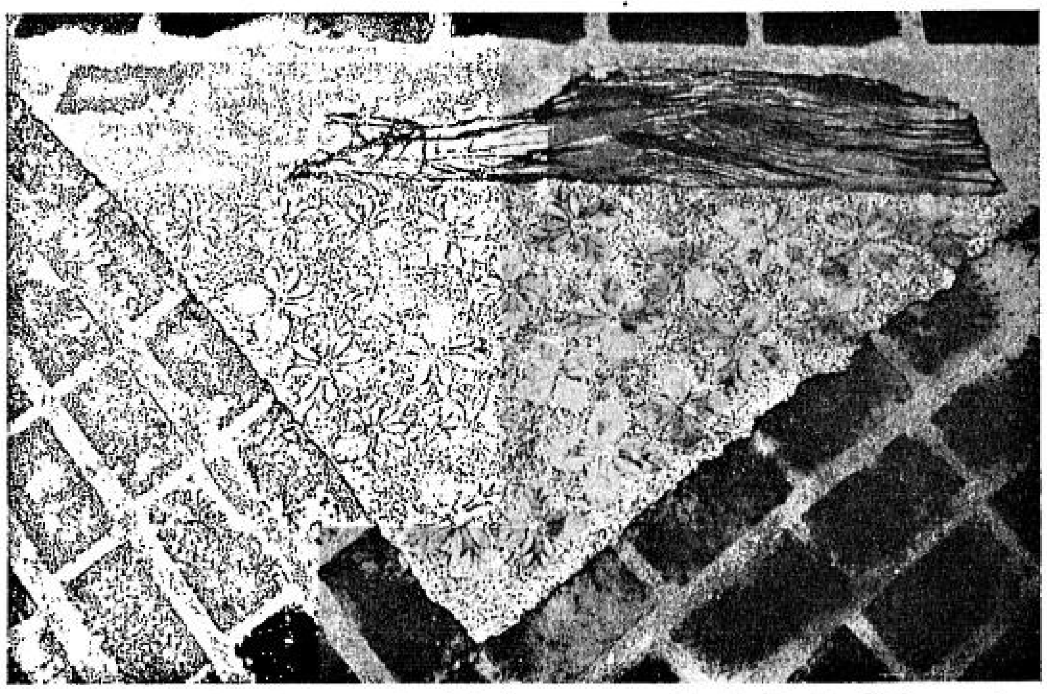
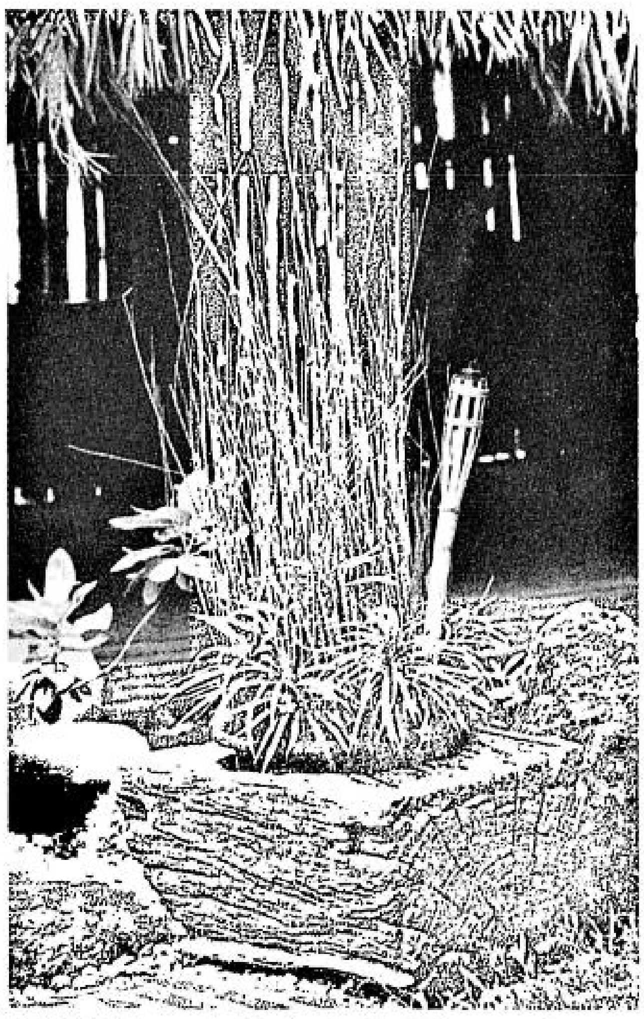


THE VIBRANT color and texture of real zinnias are captured in this "fossilized" floor section.

AT Bigyan's garden, the plants may be no more than the common dracaena and sansevieria but the distinctive Ugu pottery gives them distinction.

GABI leaves provided the pattern for these tiles used in a footpath leading to a water garden.

Potter in the garden of 'fossils'



HORSE tail grows lushly in what looks like a used wooden mortar.

From page G1

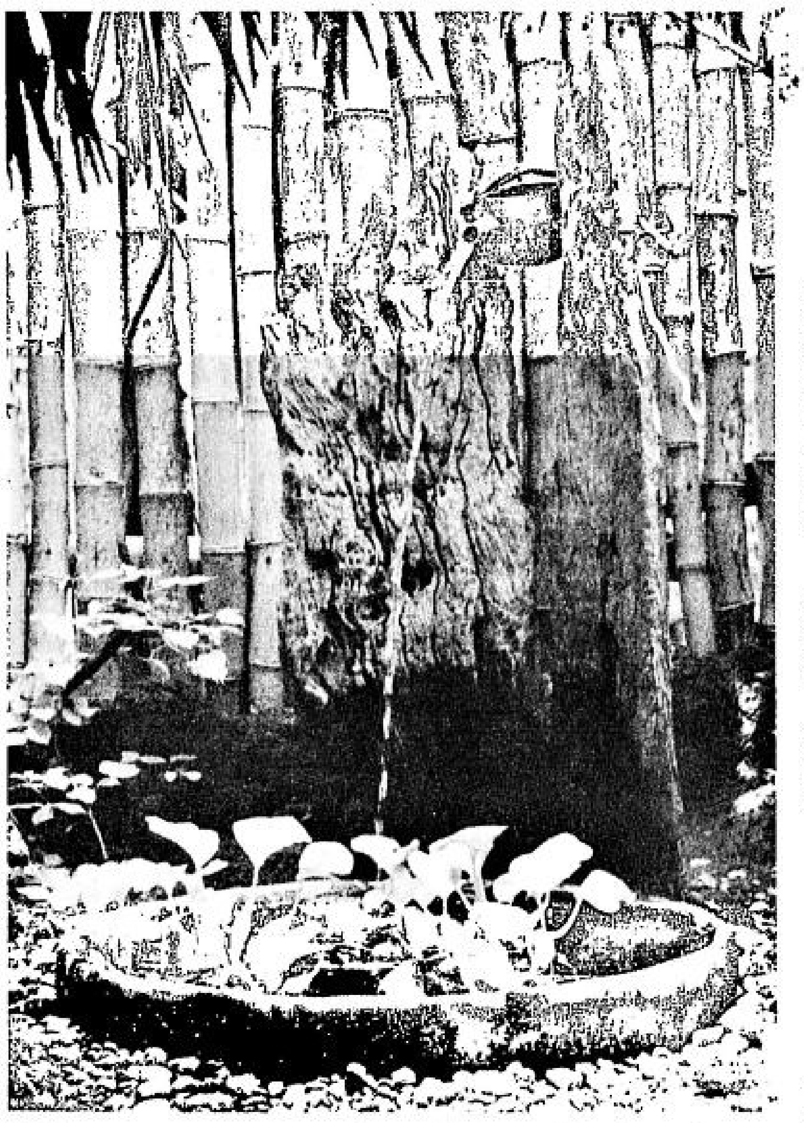
planters and even walls that are adorned with "fossilized" leaves and some flowers. Bigyan used fresh leaves and flowers as molds for his tiles. Clay is poured over a fresh leaf, following its contour. The leaf or flower's design is transferred to the mold resulting in a ceramic piece that shows almost every feature of its fresh mold—veins and all.

The process is much like the way fossil is formed—a plant or an animal is embedded in rock. Continuous pressure through the ages would transfer the image of the exact shape of the plant or animal into the rock.

Bigyan has simply hastened what would otherwise take years to form naturally.

The potter has also transferred the technology to his jars, using flowers complete with their leaves and stems and painstakingly reproducing the colors of the original materials. A *tapayan*, for instance, has *santan*, *gumamela* and *chichirica*, among others. In fact, one can see and feel the little blossoms that make up a *santan* flower.

Call (042)5458689 or fax (042)5459144.



IT'S the pottery not the plant, the prolific "water lily," that makes this mini-waterfall interesting.

BLUE glazed mini pots set off the ordinary green foliage in this oddly shaped stone and clay planter.

A PHILODENDRON has crept to the top of this circular wooden stand with a grayish ceramic bowl.

The right potting medium

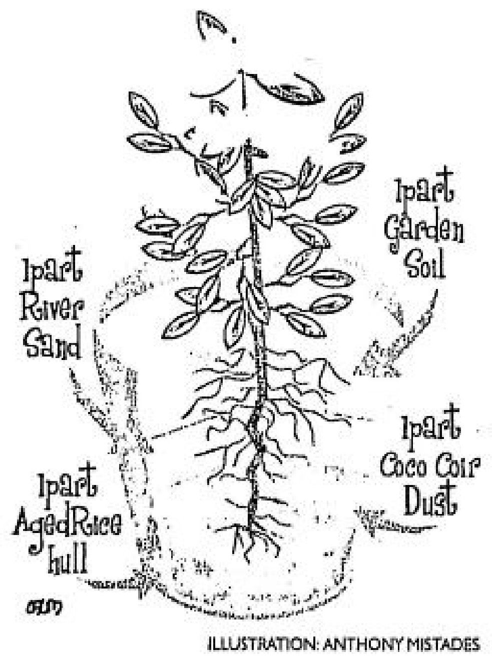


ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

By Serapion Metilla
Contributor

GREEN TIPS

THE HEALTHY growth of plants can be due to the right potting medium. Although there are plants that require special types of medium, most ornamental plants can be cultured well in this following potting mixture:

- One part garden soil, preferably the loam type
- One part river sand (sea sand is not recommended)
- One part coca coir dust and one part aged rice hull.

Instead of the coco coir dust and aged rice hull, you can also use any of the following: coffee pulp, ground corn cob, animal manure, compost from seaweeds, humus from rotted dead leaves from forest floors and other composted organic materials.

The garden soil contains some types of beneficial minerals while the river sand is to serve as conditioner (porosity). The compost will provide the necessary elements needed, like the phosphorous, potassium and other trace elements such as boron, iron, molybdenum and the like.

To test a good potting medium is to mold the mixture with your hands. When it easily crumbles by poking lightly with your fingers, this shows that it is porous and when water easily runs out or is readily absorbed, your medium is good.

Most of the plants that can tolerate this type of mixture are the palms, fern, dracaenas, cannas, lilies, crotons, daisies, euphorbias, bamboo family, fruit-bearing trees, some types of bromeliads, herbs both culinary and medicinal, *santans*, aroids, bougainvillea, terrestrial orchids and all other plants that grow in soil.

The epiphytic types can be cultured in trunks of trees, barks, fern slabs, charcoal and on rustic stones in hanging baskets.

Call 9394593.

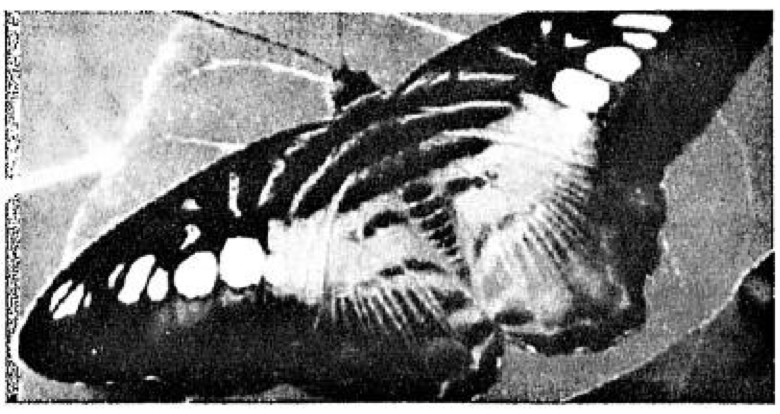
Learn how to breed butterflies

ELIZABETH Lumawig Heitzmann is conducting a two-day seminar workshop on butterfly breeding for business and for educational purposes at Mett's Plant Art, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank compound, cor. Edsa and Quezon Ave,, Quezon City.

The seminar will be held 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Aug. 21-22 and Aug. 28-29. Snacks and lunch will be provided.

Heitzmann is the owner of Butterfly House at the seedling bank and co-owner of the Butterfly Garden Inc. in Subic Bay Free Port Zone in Zambales.

Registration is ongoing at the Seedling Bank Butterfly House. Call (02)9278541 or 0916-2968735.



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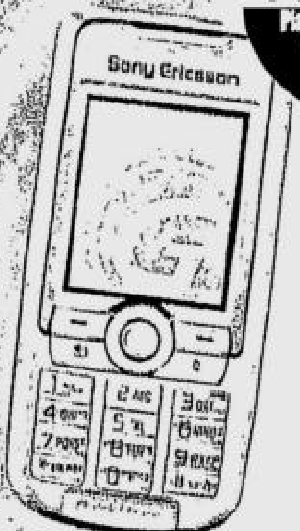
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ENTRANCE to the main door makes use of piedra China slabs.

Homogenous but varied

A work in progress in Mandaluyong shows minute reinvention of the roof and floor to obtain an updated look

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Bobot Meru

THE COUPLE'S original plan was to have an old, two-story house harking back to the 1960s demolished.

Later, however, they decided to have the house "architecturally face lifted" instead. Their goal: a modern Asian home.

The pair, who chose to remain anonymous, found the old structure sound. They also had a sentimental reason to retain it: the husband's mother gave them the house and lot in one of Mandaluyong's exclusive villages as a wedding gift. The couple now has a five-year-old son.

"Since we decided not to move elsewhere," says the wife, "we have to do the renovation gradually."

Not surprisingly, they have yet to complete the task four years after embarking on it. They initially replaced dated wrought iron grills with framed glass windows. They then worked on the lanai by converting it into an enclosed entertainment den. Adjacent to it is the family's white living room with a huge oil painting of Canadian artist Sylvain Tremblay.

The couple saw the piece while in New York, and both fell in love with it. But they went home empty handed, as the painting had already been sold.

Imagine their surprise when the art gallery e-mailed them later. Not only did they get the painting, they also got a substantial discount.

"The first owner was said to have returned the painting since he found it too small for his place," the wife explains. "I believe this is the first Tremblay in the Philippines. It was really meant for us."

After redoing the lanai, the couple then zeroed in on the kitchen, part of which had to go since it was bordering the front

HOMOGENOUS / H2

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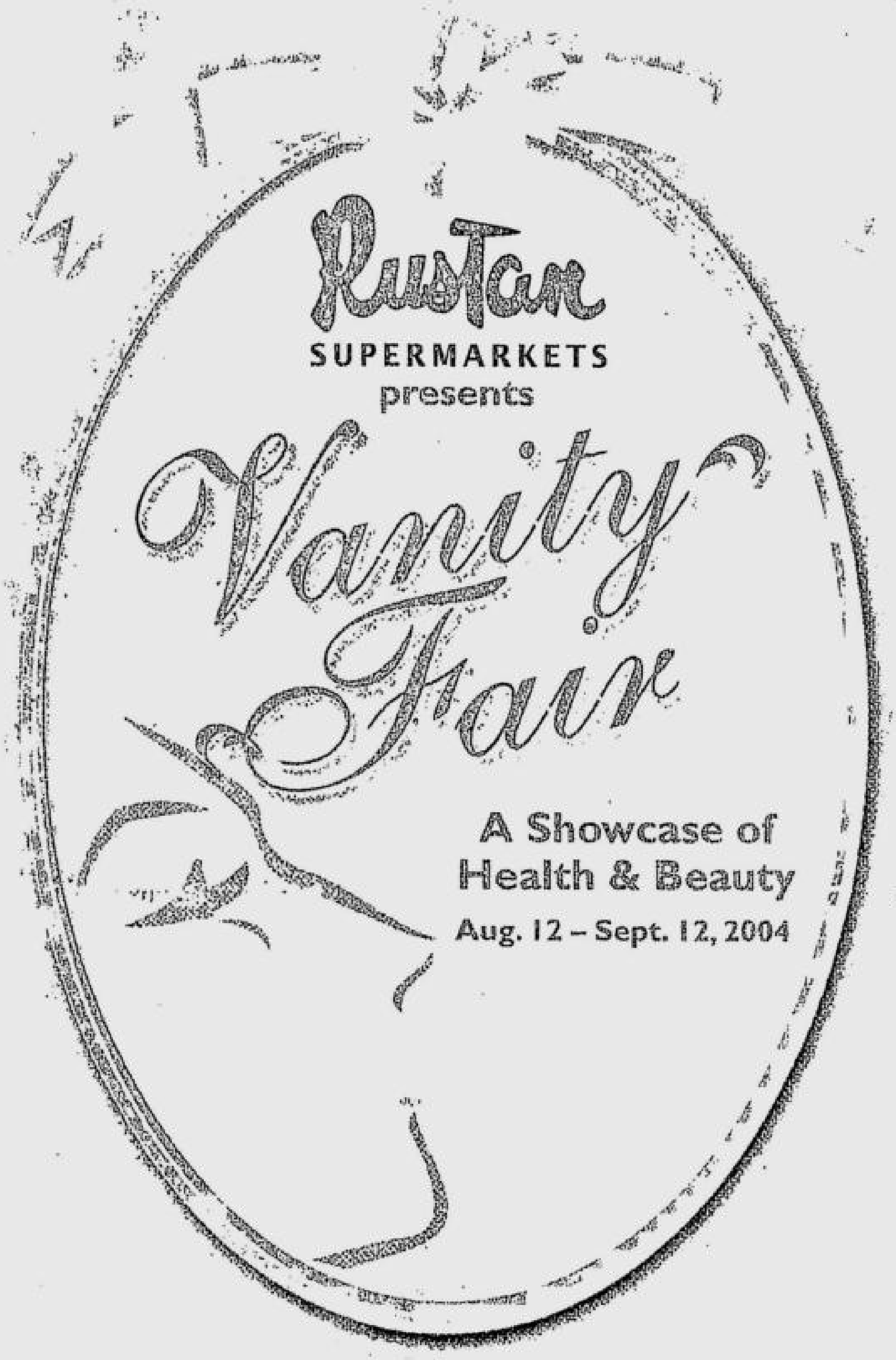

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1563 Series of 2004

ROBERTO Robles' oil painting provides the dining area with a focal point.

NO two homogenous tiles are exactly alike.

Homogenous but varied

From page H1

perimeter wall.

The wife then had the vacant space converted into a lush garden that mimics the look of an adjacent plot just outside the dining area. Huge framed sliding doors made of glass offer a view of the garden and impart the room with a virtual al fresco dining experience.

Updated look

Slabs of orange marble gave way to piedra China along the entry to the main door. To update the look, round columns were smoothened and made more angular and minimalist.

"We have yet to start working on the bedrooms and have barely touched the bathrooms," says the wife. "I can't wait to redo the powder room."

Despite brimming with ideas, the wife had to hire the services of interior designer Pam Mendoza.

Mendoza advised them to prioritize the roof before working on the floor and ceiling. Now that the roof is free from leaks, work on the ceiling has begun. In fact, the ceiling in the den and kitchen are already finished.

Aside from providing the project much-needed order and perspective, Mendoza also guided the couple in choosing the right materials.

She reminded them as well not to scrimp on such essentials as the flooring. Unlike doors, walls and ceiling, which can be replaced in less than a day, the floor is of a more permanent nature.

"The floor is one of the hardest areas to work on," Mendoza explains. "Aside from being expensive, it's messy and noisy to redo if not done properly."

Since the ground floor had uneven and discolored marble, the couple had a clear idea what material to avoid.

When work began on the den and kitchen, they opted for the more expensive Italian-made homogenous tiles from Centro Ceramica.

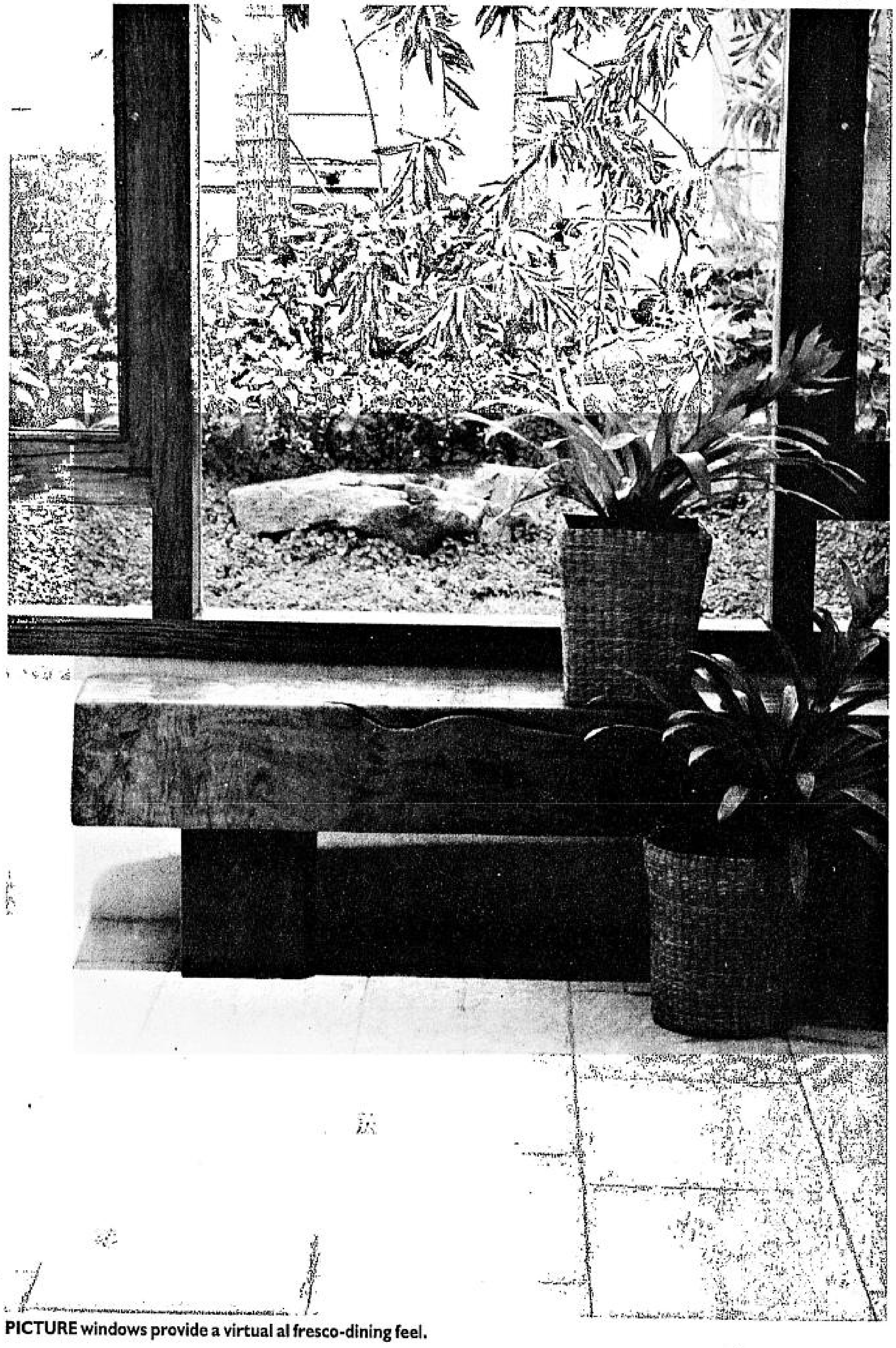
By nature, natural stones such as marble, slate and Mactan stone are porous. They tend to absorb dirt and moisture overtime. Compared to ceramic and homogenous tiles, they're also less durable and more prone to breakage and the harsh effects of the elements.

Improved version

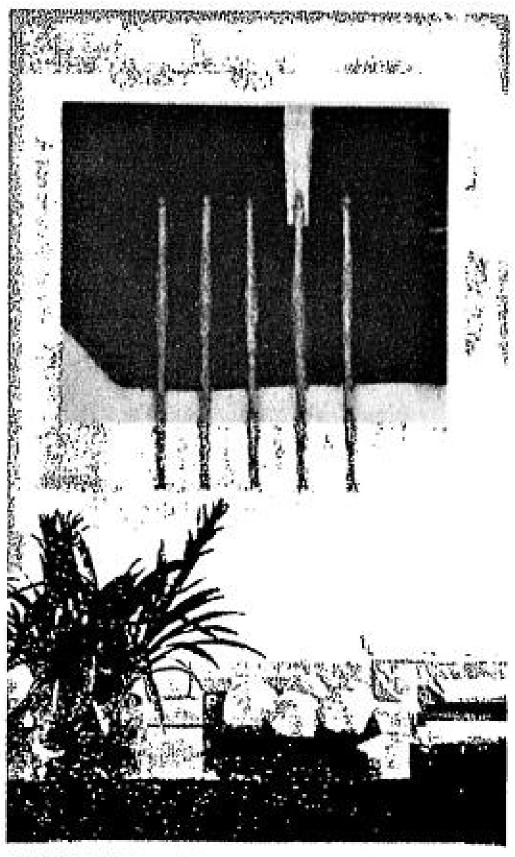
Homogenous tiles are the newer, more improved version of ceramic tiles. Unlike their

HOMOGENOUS/H4

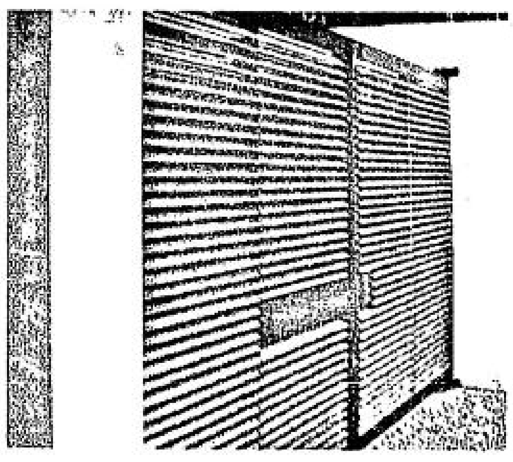
TACTILE and warm shabui gold tiles



PICTURE windows provide a virtual al fresco-dining feel.

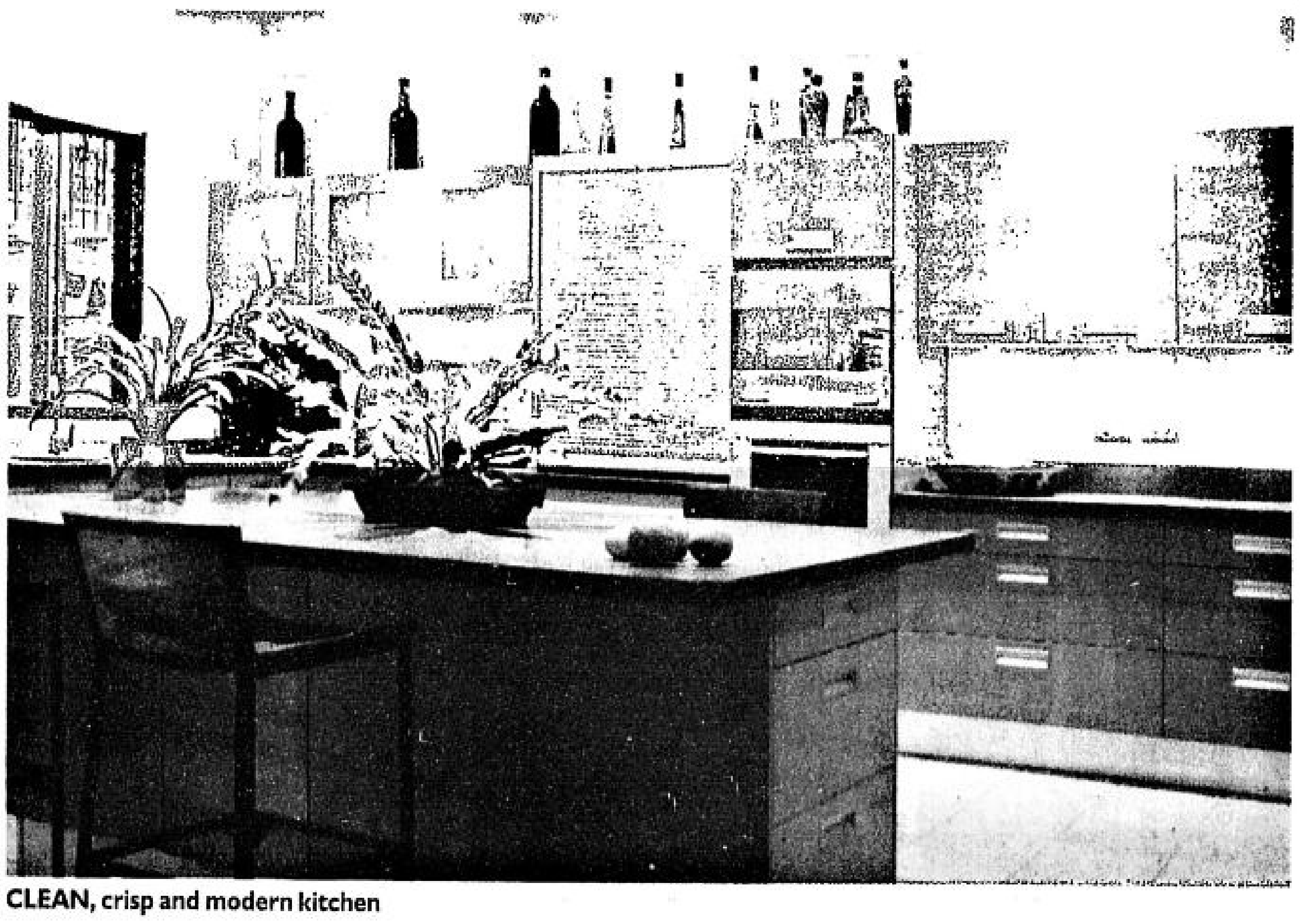


SYLVAIN Tremblay painting, perhaps the first of its kind in the Philippines, hangs on the white living room wall. Donald Trump is said to be a huge fan of the artist.



MAIN entrance consists of tiled walls and slatted wooden gate.

THE FORMER lanai is now an air-conditioned den with windows that let the outside in.



CLEAN, crisp and modern kitchen

Computer textbooks for the young

C&E PUBLISHING Inc. will launch Josephine Tesalona's "Let's Log in Tech Is Easy," a series of seven books on computer for elementary students and another four books for high school students, 1 p.m., today at the World Trade Center, PICC Complex.

GOINGS ON

MUSICAL. The Asian Social Institute and Department of Tourism present "Rock the Walls," a free concert in celebration of the 5th International Youth Day, 7 p.m., today at the Clamshell 1, Intramuros, Manila.

DANCE. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts celebrates International Year of Rice by sponsoring a dance performance by the Philippine Barangay Folk Dance Troupe at 6 tonight at the Marikina River Bank Mall, Marikina.

BRIEFING. Asia Pacific College will hold a Speedstart Linux Applications event to mark IBM university day, 9 a.m.-12 noon, today at the APC auditorium. Call 8529232.

CONCERT. Barbie's Cradle and Silk will perform in "Highlands Shindig: All Night Party with Barbie's Cradle and Silk," 9 p.m., Aug. 14, at the Summer Garden of Highlands China Palace, Tagaytay. Call 6872885.

SEARCH. SM Supermalls is conducting a nationwide search for the Singing Lolo and Lola. The contest is open to all grandparents 40 years old and above. Application forms and requirements should be submitted on or before Aug. 15 in any SM Supermalls SCMC Administration office c/o marketing department. Call 2482474.

WORKSHOP. Joel Alonday will teach bas relief sculpture lessons at Art Informal starting Aug. 17, 6-9 p.m. Call 7258518/ 0917-5261253.

FORUM. The Philippine Group of Law Librarians will mark its 24th anniversary with a half-day forum on "Career Opportunities for Modern Information Professionals" at the Department of Justice Multipurpose hall on Aug. 18. Call 5249740/8186381.

WORKSHOP. Businessmaker Academy will hold the Pillow Frames workshop on Aug. 19. The course will cover funky stuffed chicken, rabbit and bee pillow frame designs. Call 6874445/6874645/6873416.

FESTIVAL. The 19th Kadayawan sa Dabaw will mark the Davao River Festival on Aug. 19 at the Davao River Parks and Promenade along Davao River.

SEMINAR. CFS Continental Technology is offering three seminars this month: "Warehouse Management" (Aug. 21, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.); "Effective Supervisory Skills" (Aug. 27, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.); and "Production Planning and Control That Works" (Aug. 28, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Call 8697960, 8232358 or 8234825.

FAIR. Sta. Lucia East Department Store is holding its annual Health and Beauty Fair until Aug. 31. Get big discounts on your favorite beauty brands. Exchange P300 single receipt when you buy any health and beauty product and join the raffle where you can win a treadmill. Bowling fanatics can play for an hour with friends for P160 per lane (excluding shoe rental), 12 noon to 5 p.m., until Oct. 5. Get a free deluxe movie pass for every P199 single purchase receipt at Sta. Lucia East Cinema snack bars and TJ hotdog booths until Oct. 14.

SALE. Ducks Unlimited offers 20-50 percent discount on all items for the whole month of August. Ducks Unlimited is located at Shoppesville-Greenhills, Century Park Sheraton Hotel, Robinson's Ermita, Robinson's Galleria, Glorietta 3, Robinson's Place, Ali Mall, SM Southmall, SM Pampanga, SM Marilao and Crossings Department Store.

CONVENTION. The Philippine Society of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology will hold its 9th Biennial Convention, Sept. 13-14 at the Westin Philippine Plaza. Call 7124932.

CONTEST. The Fishta Cookfest will be held 5 p.m., Sept. 14, at the Blue Wave, Metropolitan Park, Macapagal Blvd. Call 8122363/8943465.

EXPO. The Theme Party & Wedding Expo will be held Sept. 18-19 at the William J. Shaw Pavilion of Wack Wack Golf & Country Club, Mandaluyong. Call 8191497/8190006/8193705.

ANNIVERSARY. Centro Escolar University will celebrate the 80th anniversary of its School of Education, Liberal Arts, Music, Social Work on Sept. 25. Call 7356861.

FIRST CLASS LUXURY. Beginning Nov. 1, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines will fly non-stop from Manila to Amsterdam five times weekly using Boeing 777. It will be the only carrier to fly direct to Europe from Manila. Each flight leaves Manila at 10:30 p.m. and arrives in Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport at 5:30 a.m. the following day. Call 8154790 to 92.

CONTEST. The Photoworld Manila International Online Photography Competition is ongoing until February. It is open to photographers throughout the world. Call 8435341/8137420. Visit www.photoworldmanila.com.

PROGRAM. The Summit School offers the Catholic Religious Formation Program for 4 1/2-14 years old children. Call 8819032/ 8819034. Summit is at the University Parkway, Bonifacio Global City.

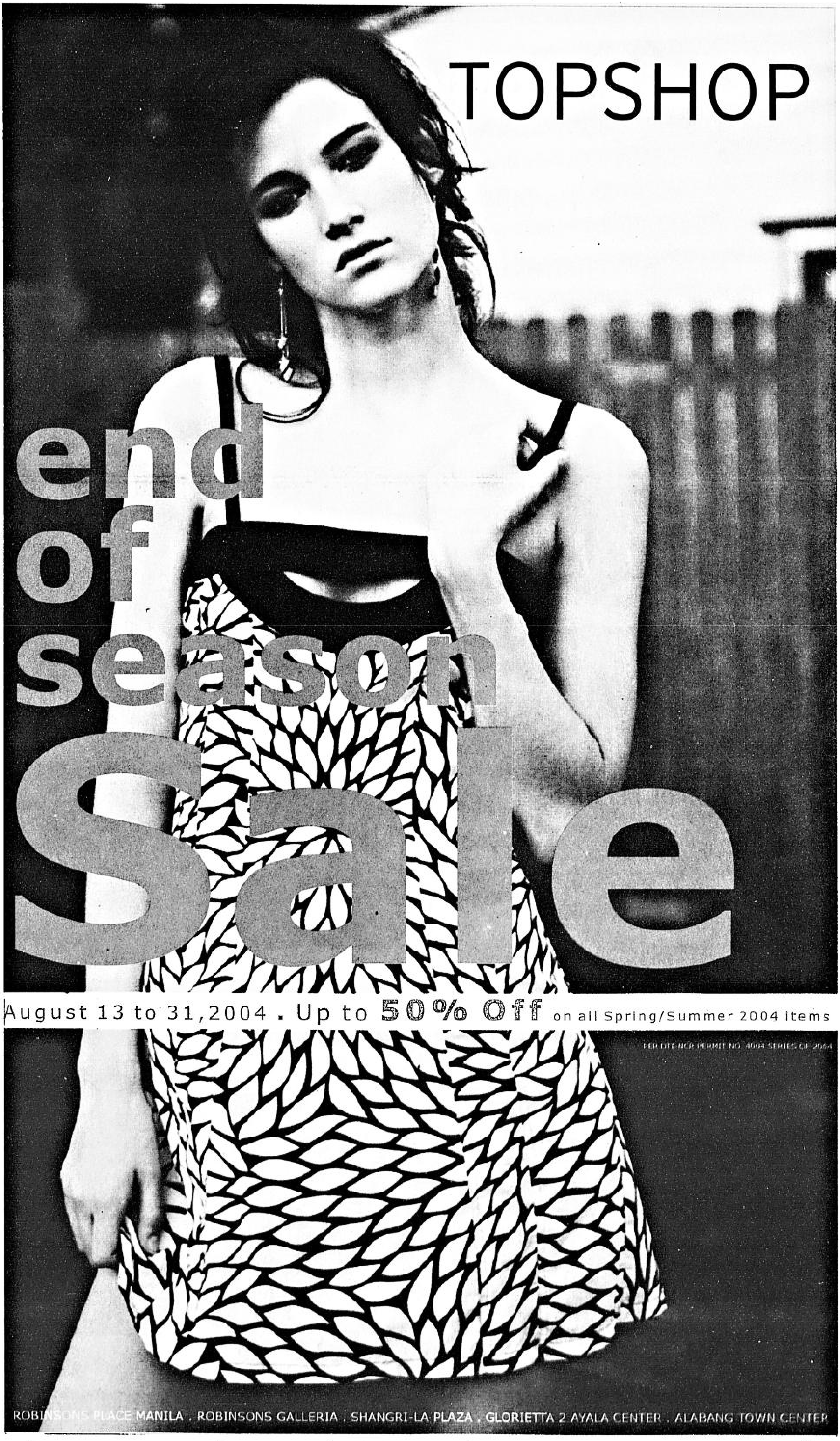
SEMINAR. PowerMemory can help students have a more well-rounded life; businessmen to remember names, numbers and dates better; and everyone to maximize his/her brain capacity. Call 6871010/ 6339171.

PROMO. AVSurfer offers 0 percent interest deals on Klipsch, Definitive, NAD, Sony, Samsung and Panasonic products payable in 3-12 months in all its branches nationwide. AVSurfer branches are at Alabang Town Center, Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Ali Mall, Baguio, Robinsons Imus, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Star Mills Pampanga.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), InterContinental Manila, Pan Pacific Hotel Manila, Manila Pavilion Hotel and Westin Philippine Plaza organized recently a training program for youngsters from Cebu, Davao and Olongapo. The program aimed to help underprivileged Filipino youngsters aged 16-20 improve their quality of life by providing them skills for gainful employment. InterContinental GM Stefan Voogel and training manager Jeanette de Leon (2nd and 5th from left, respectively) welcome the hotel's new scholars. They are (from left) Cristine Barredo, Jessy Gorre and Arman Agcol.

SEMINAR. The Jesuit Priests and Brothers will be holding a vocation seminar for male college students and young professionals on Sept. 12, at the Conference Room B, St. Paul College-Manila, Pedro Gil Street, Malate, Manila , from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Maximum age limit is 29 years old. Registration is free. Call 4266101 or e-mail vocprom@vasia.com or at acoloma@admu.edu.ph.

HOT WHEELS HIGHWAY 35 WORLD RACE JUNIOR DIVISION WINNERS
Richwell Trading Corporation (RTC) brand manager for Hot Wheels Adrian Justiniano (background, left) and RTC trade manager for Mattel Gracious Trabajo (background, right) award the Snide division winners of the Hot Wheels 35 World Race Elimination Round held in Power Plant Mall, Rockwell. The Hot Wheels Highway 35 World Race is an annual toy car racing event participated in by hundreds of kids and adults alike. Elimination rounds will be held this month in Shangri-La, Glorietta and Festival malls before the grand finals on Sept. 11 at Power Plant Mall. Winners for the Best Team will receive P10,000, the Best Drivers will get P4,000 and the finalists will take home special gift packs from Hot Wheels.



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Homogenous ...

From page H2

water-based predecessor, they are made from various granules such as sand, clay and porcelain. The granules are then compacted and baked at extremely high temperatures, ranging from 1,100 to 1,500 degrees Celsius, making them quite hard and nonporous. In contrast, ceramic tiles are baked at half the temperature—between 500 to 700 degrees Celsius.

Homogenous tiles from Italy are said to be 20 percent more expensive than their ceramic counterparts. As they were introduced only 30 years ago (as opposed to ceramic tiles, which have been around even before the time of Christ), vitrified porcelain tiles, as they were known initially, came in limited shades.

Thanks to modern technology, however, the market now offers a variety: matte, glazed and honed versions.

As they're technically made from natural materials, homogenous tiles are never the same. Variance in shades, textures and sometimes even sheen, which is sorely lacking, say, in cheap, vinyl tiles, makes for an interesting floor as evident in the couple's den.

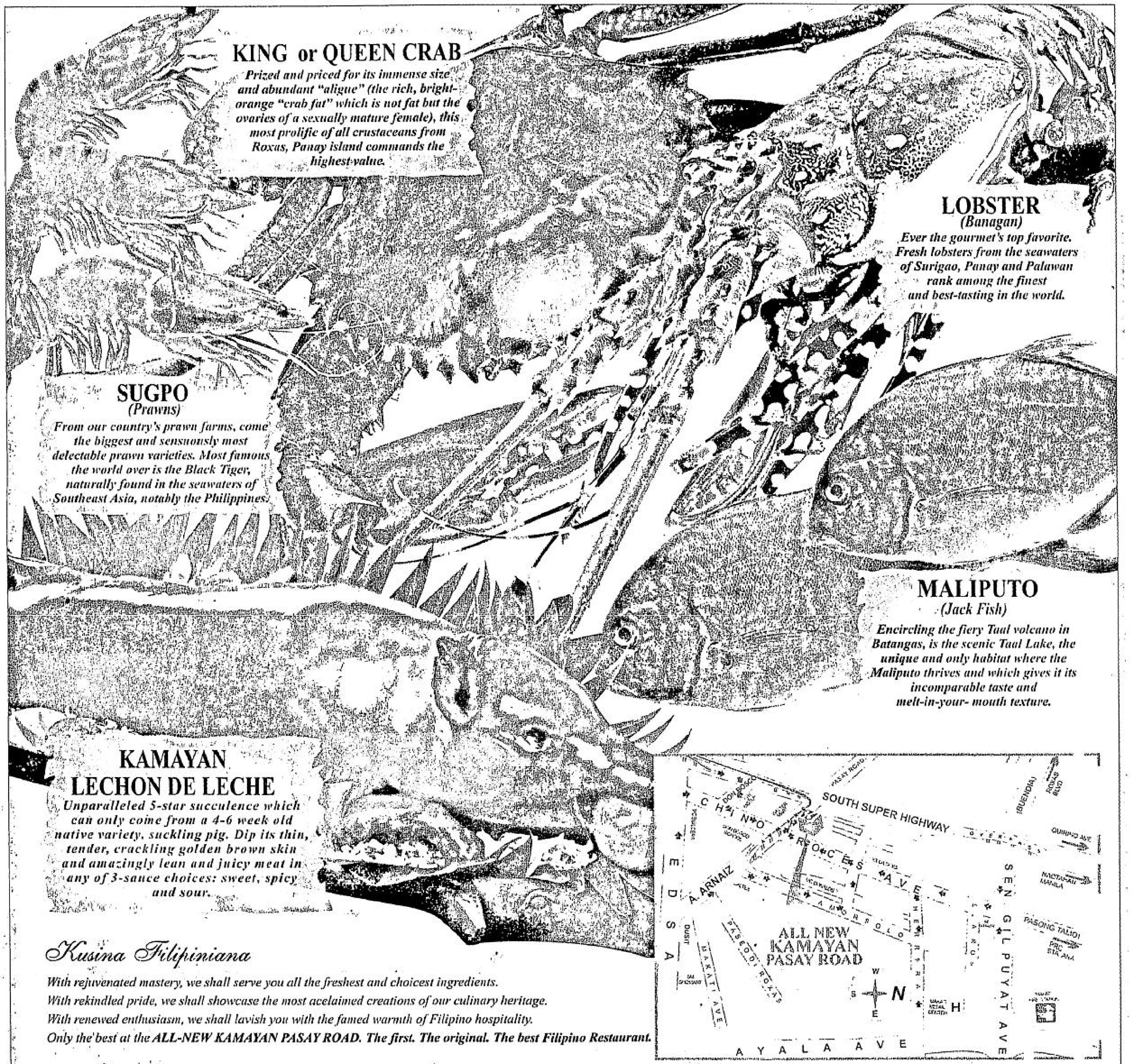
"Not only are they beautiful," says Mendoza, "these tiles are also designed for high-traffic areas."

The wife picked shabui gold for the den and multicolored white for the kitchen. The latter is part of Centro Ceramica's so-called Jerusalem series that goes well with the kitchen's streamlined wooden cabinets. The same tile color makes up the walls that support the slatted front gate.

And if for some reason the couple decides to postpone the house's renovation indefinitely, they need not worry about running out of tiles in the future.

Owing to its huge inventory and good working relations with its Italian partners, Centro Ceramica has guaranteed their availability in the years to come.

ENTERTAINMENT options are confined in this room. Bedrooms have no TV, to allow their occupants time to talk.



KING or QUEEN CRAB

Prized and priced for its immense size and abundant "aligue" (the rich, bright-orange "crab fat" which is not fat but the ovaries of a sexually mature female), this most prolific of all crustaceans from Roxas, Panay island commands the highest value.

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MALIPUTO
(Jack Fish)

Encircling the fiery Taal volcano in Batangas, is the scenic Taal Lake, the unique and only habitat where the Maliputo thrives and which gives it its incomparable taste and melt-in-your- mouth texture.

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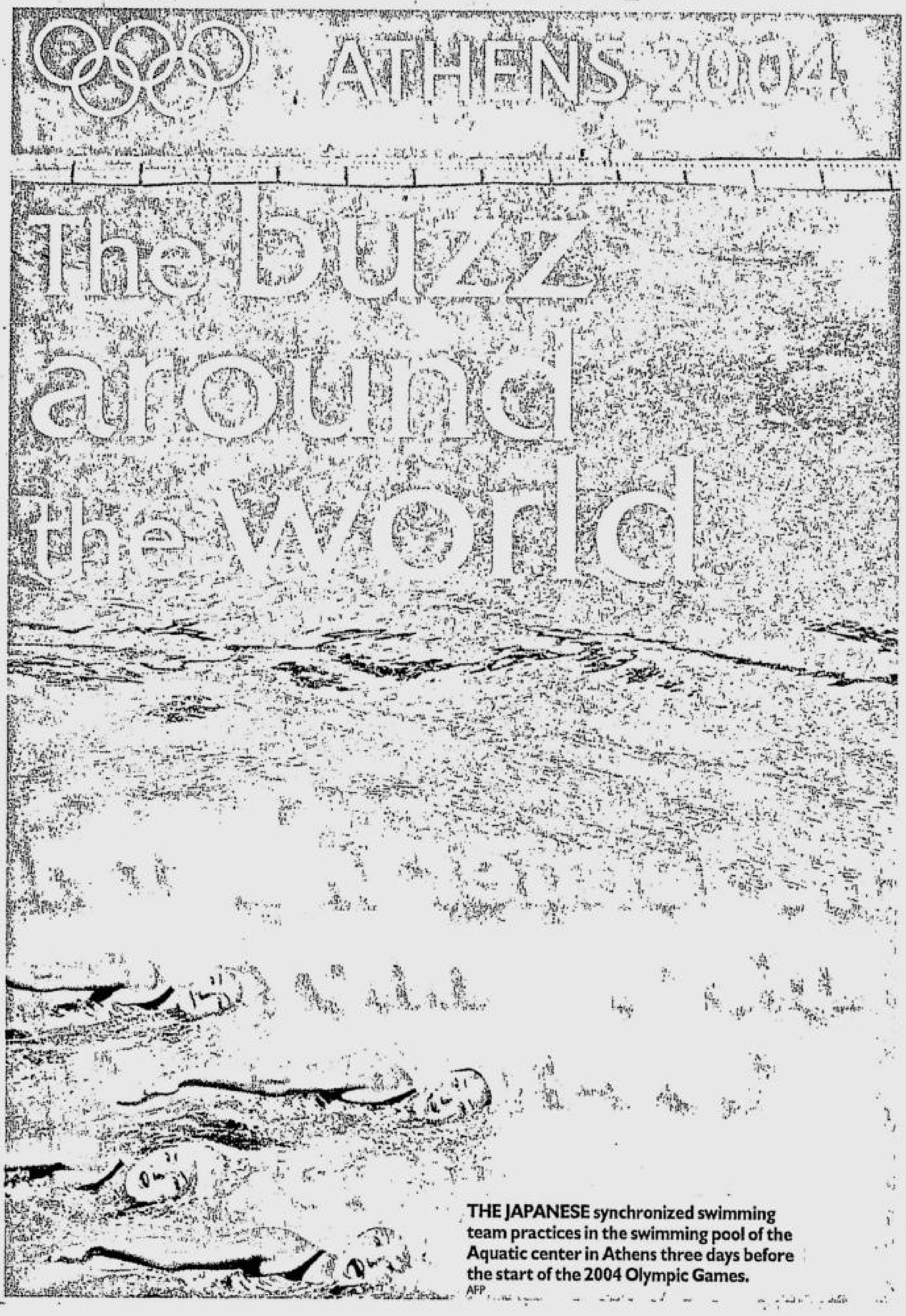

ATHENS 2004
The buzz around the world

THE JAPANESE synchronized swimming team practices in the swimming pool of the Aquatic center in Athens three days before the start of the 2004 Olympic Games.
AFP

Greek PM: extraordinary, safe Games

ATHENS-- Greece has completed all venues and is ready to host an extraordinary and safe Olympics this month, Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis said on Tuesday after a long tour of the main Olympic sports complex.

Karamanlis, who toured several sports facilities with Athens Games chief Gianna Angelopoulos 10 days before the start of the Aug. 13 to 29 Games, said everything was in place to welcome athletes from a record 202 nations.

"The Olympic installations and infrastructure are ready to welcome, host and serve the Olympic family, the athletes, the journalists and the spectators coming from around the world," he said.

"Together we made it this far and together we will achieve the common aim of hosting extraordinary Games under conditions of maximum security." After wasting the first three years of its seven-year preparation period, Greece went on a construction frenzy to complete the projects, that ended only a few weeks before the Games.

It has also implemented the most expensive Games security plan, worth 1 billion euros, for the first summer Games since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on US cities and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We will send a message of peace and competition, a message of humanity and culture," Karamanlis said after viewing the indoor cycling track, the aquatic center, the tennis arena and the Olympic stadium itself.

Access to the main stadium was not granted to any accompanying journalist due to ongoing top secret rehearsals for the opening ceremony on Aug. 13.

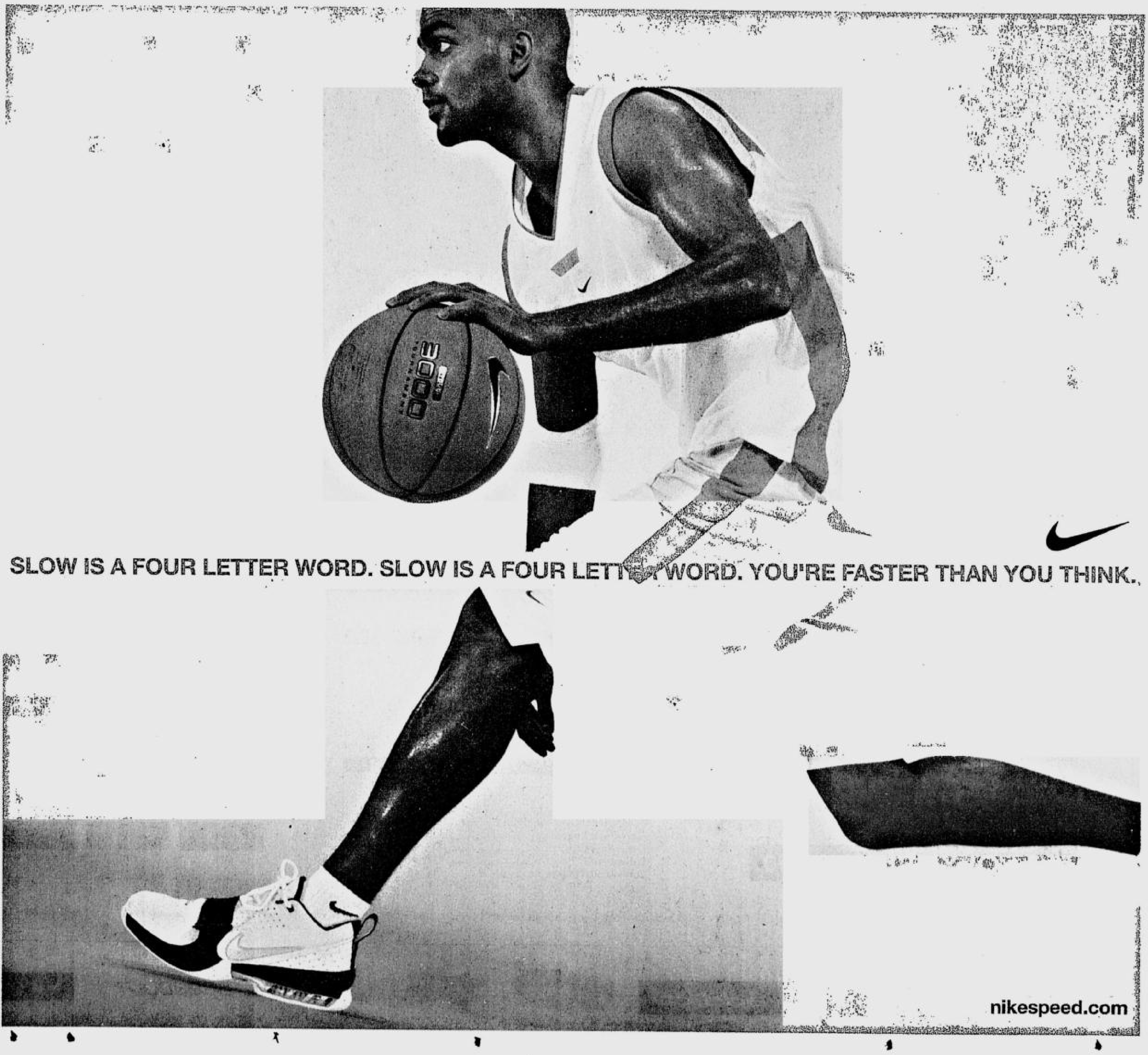
Officials said it would be a spectacular visual show, mixing ancient Greek elements with modern-day special effects.

"I can only say that it will be nothing you have ever seen before. It is a completely different concept from any other opening ceremony, including the parade of the athletes," the official, who will also participate in the ceremony, told Reuters.

Karamanlis, who also toured the surrounding areas for the first time since their completion a few weeks ago, said he was certain of the Games' success.

"We are fully ready," he said as the new Olympic roof above the 55,000-seat stadium sparkled in the background. "We are fully ready and that is why we are optimistic."

Reuters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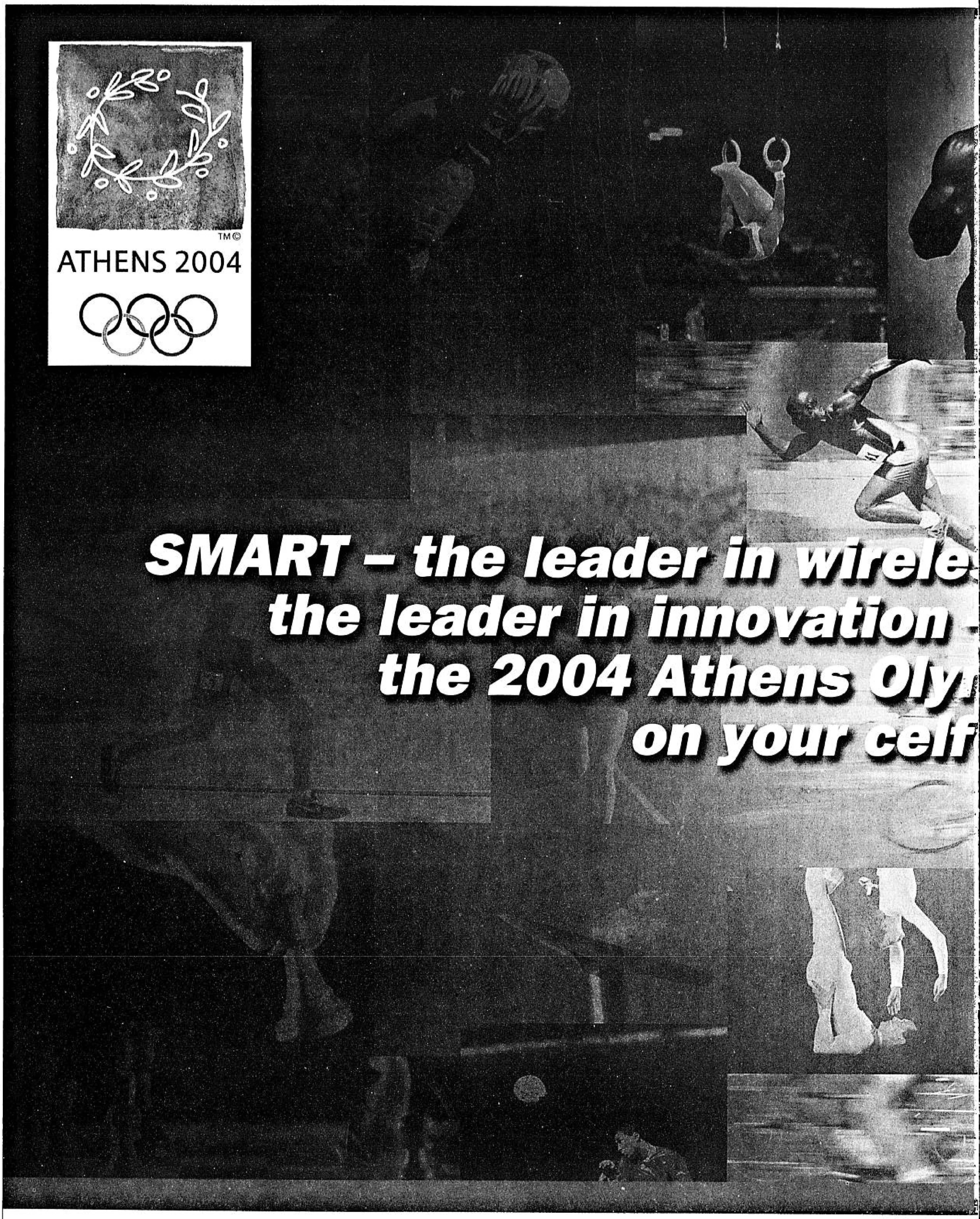

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The Vatican announced the initiative Tuesday, pointing to the millions of people who will follow the Olympics in Athens this month as proof of the important role sports plays in today's world.

"The Holy Father has always been interested in sports, and as a means of evangelization and a great way to form youth," said Father Kevin Lixey, an American priest involved in establishing the department in the Pontifical Council for Lay People.

With doping scandals marring cycling, athletics and other sports, and fan violence spilling out of soccer stadium seats and onto pitches and streets, the pope's initiative is aimed in part at countering negative images, said Lixey, a member of the Legionaries of Christ, a conservative religious institute with headquarters in Rome.

There is need to "let people know that there are sportsmen who are also virtuous," Lixey said in a telephone interview.

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"The Church, which has always shown particular attention to various and important sectors of human coexistence, is called upon without doubt to pay attention to sports, which certainly can be considered one of the nerve centers of contemporary culture and one of the frontiers for new evangelization," the Vatican said.

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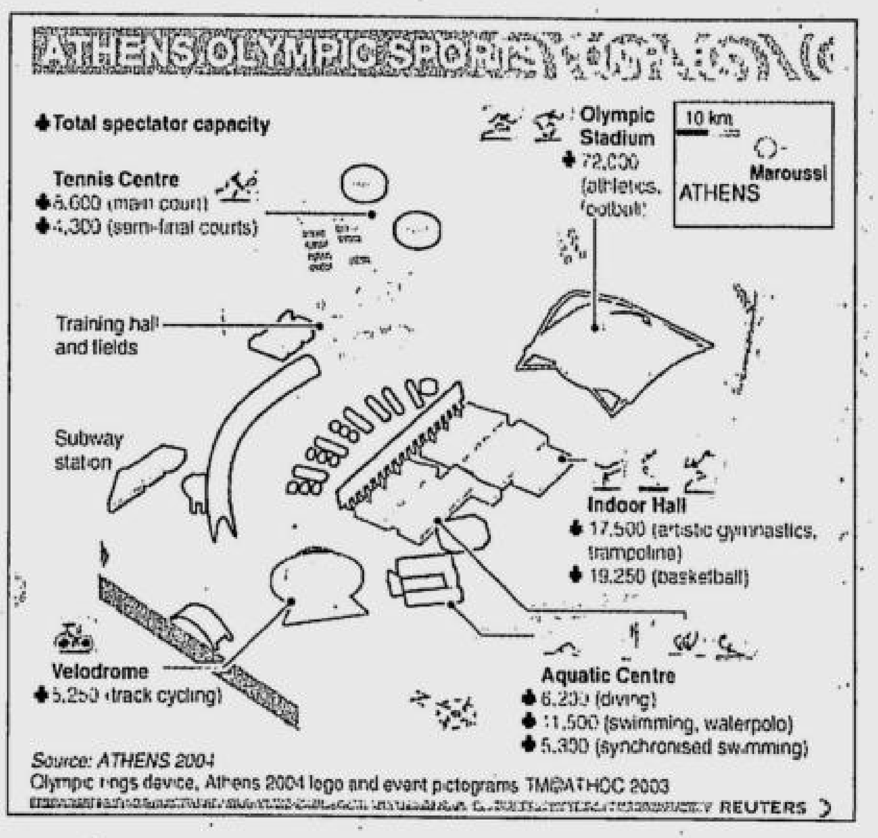
AP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Subway station
Indoor Hall
♣17,500 (artistic gymnastics, trampoline)
♣19,250 (basketball)
Velodrome
♣5,250 (track cycling)
Aquatic Centre
♣6,200 (diving)
♣11,500 (swimming, waterpolo)
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Olympic rings device, Athens 2004 logo and event pictograms TM©ATHOC 2003
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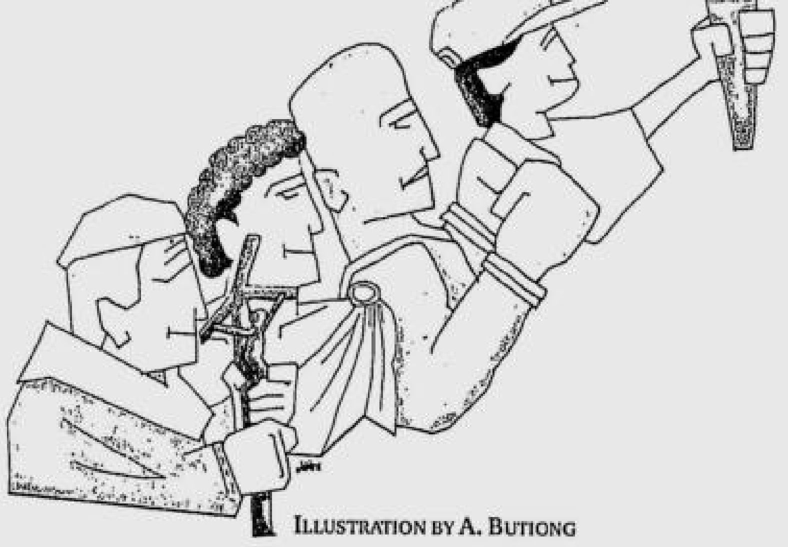
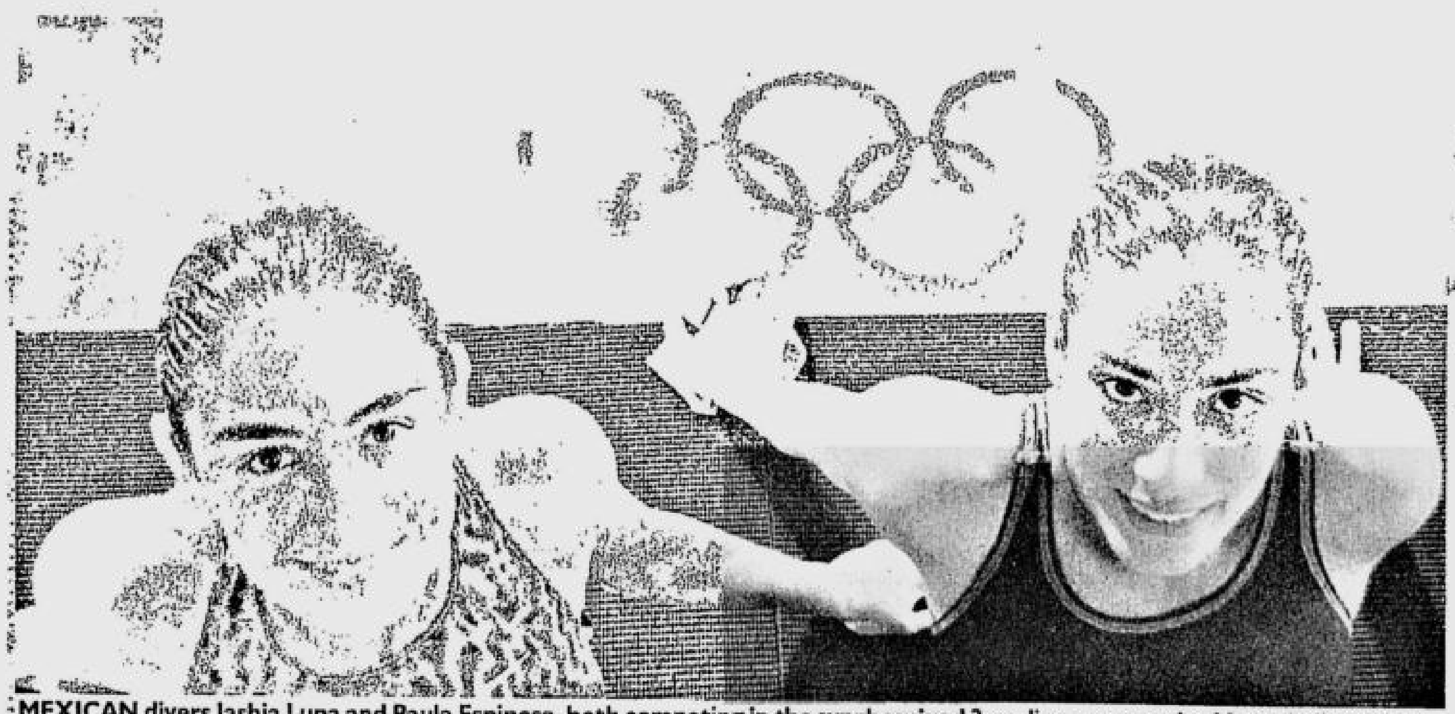


ILLUSTRATION BY A. BUTIONG

A CUBAN athlete performs a dive at the Aquatic center in Athens Aug 10.

AFP



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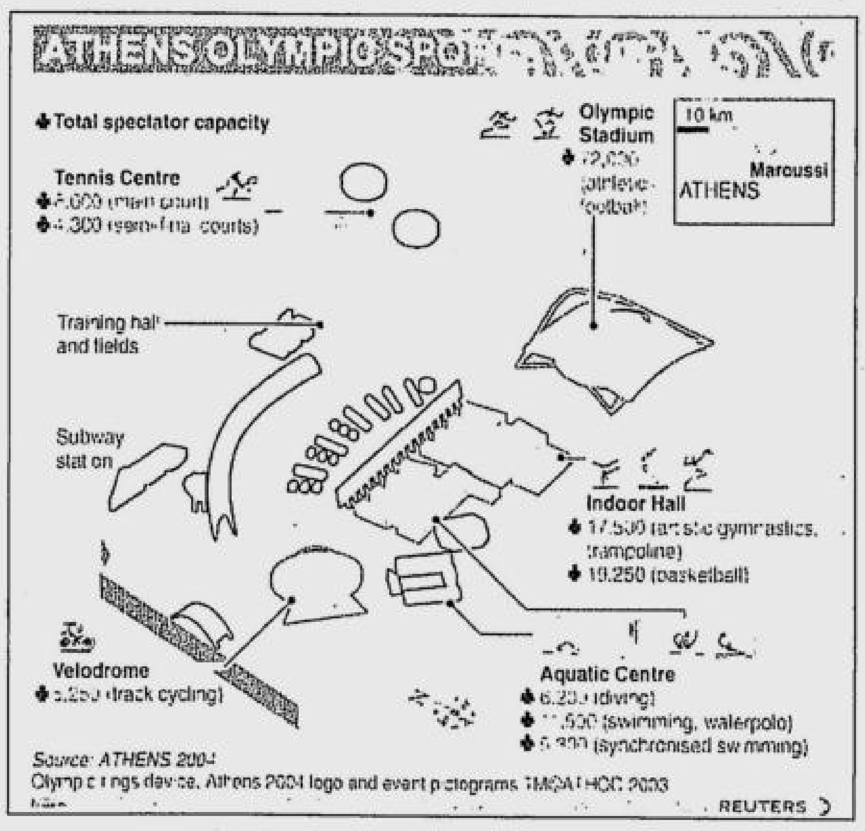

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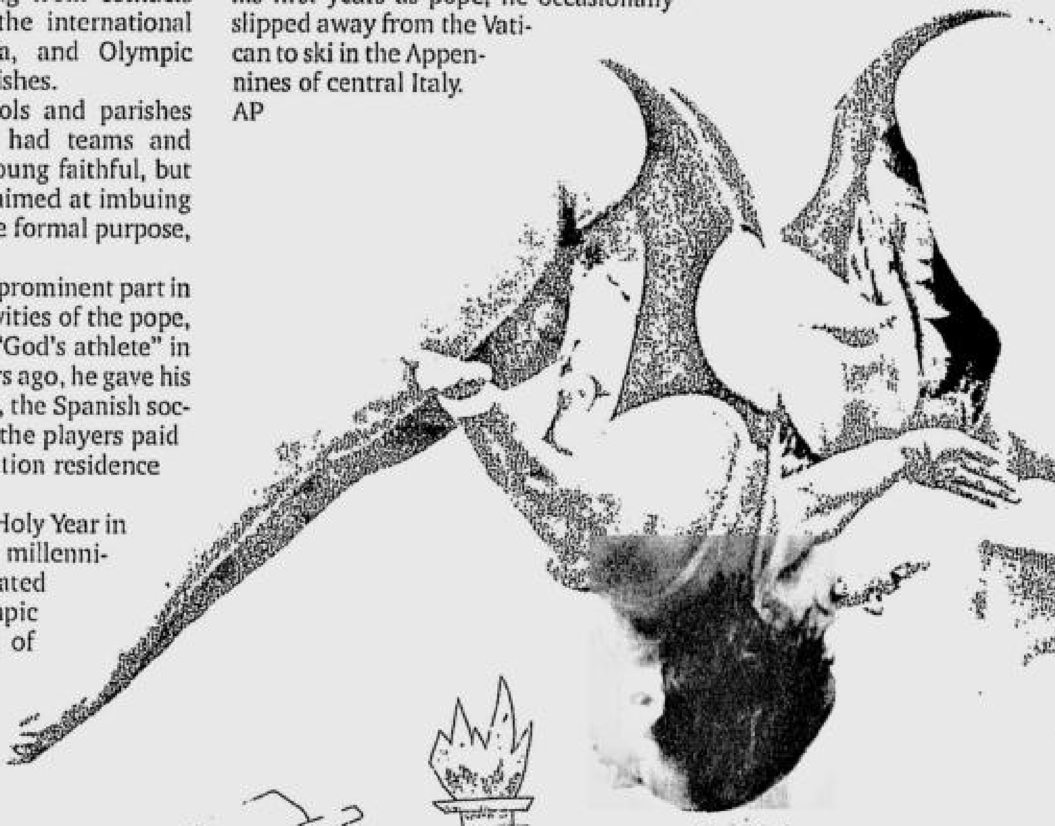

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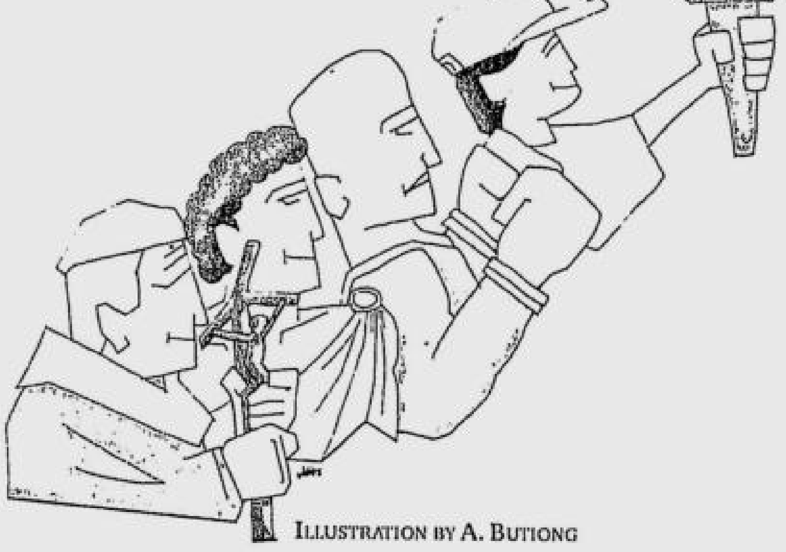

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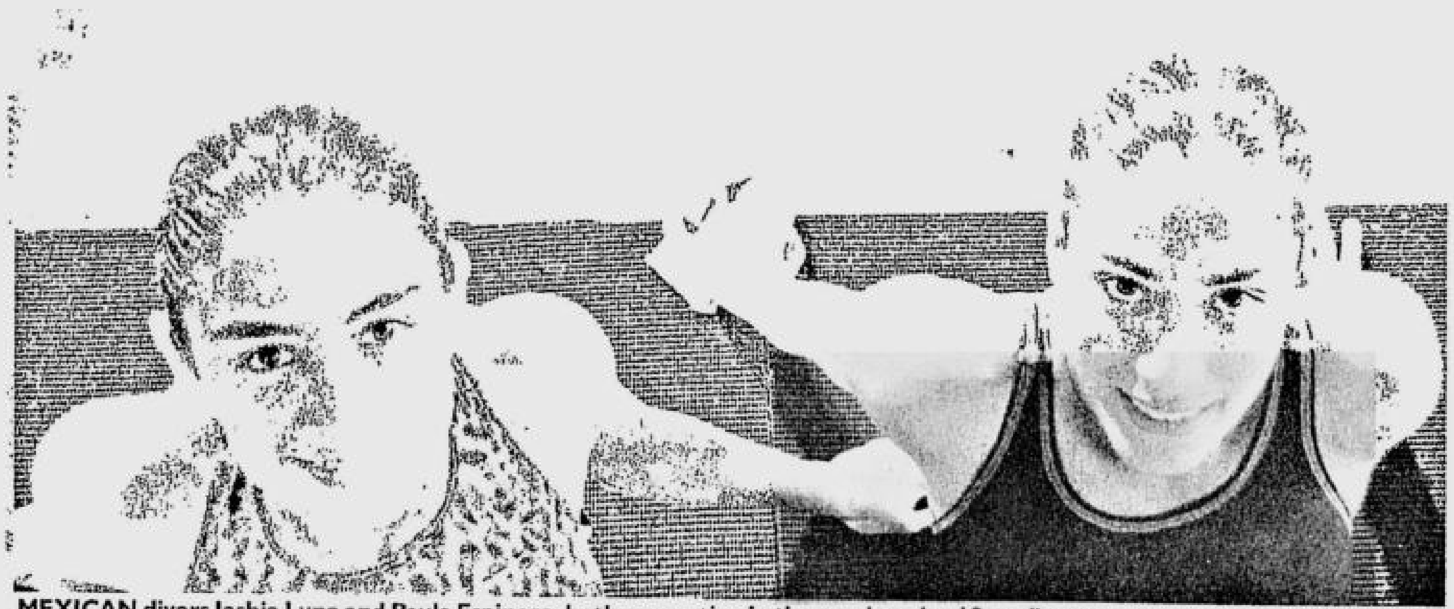

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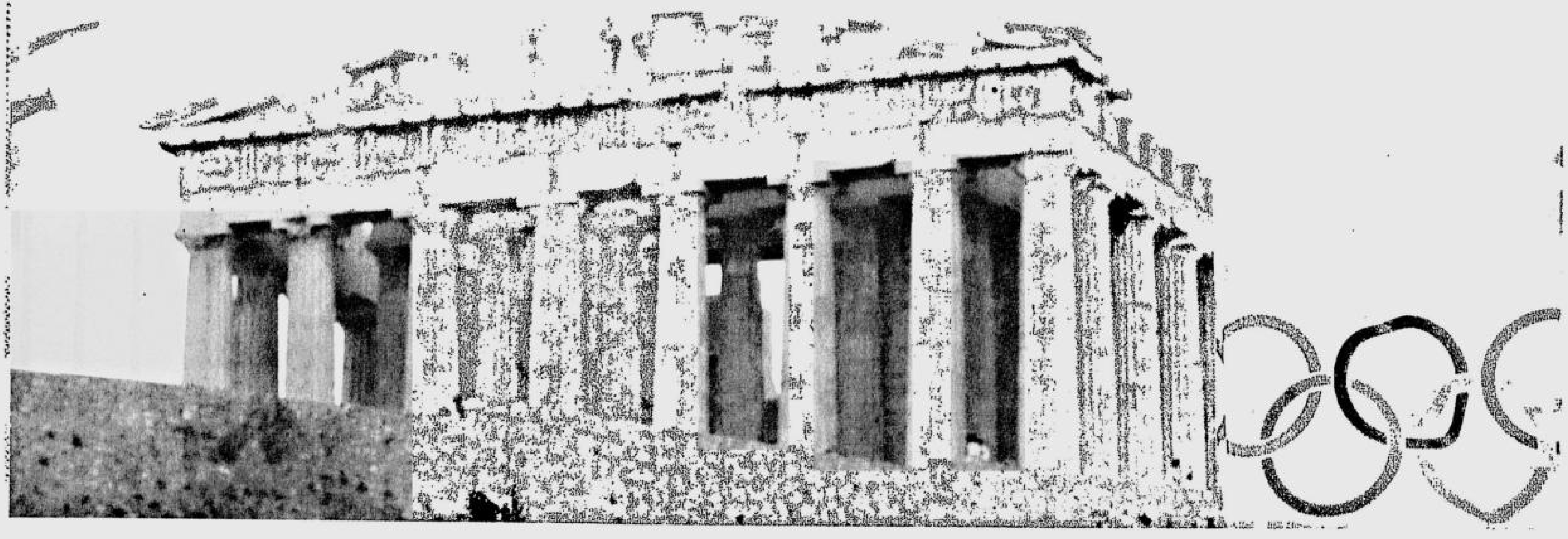

More stories on the 2004 Athens Olympics on pages J1 to J3

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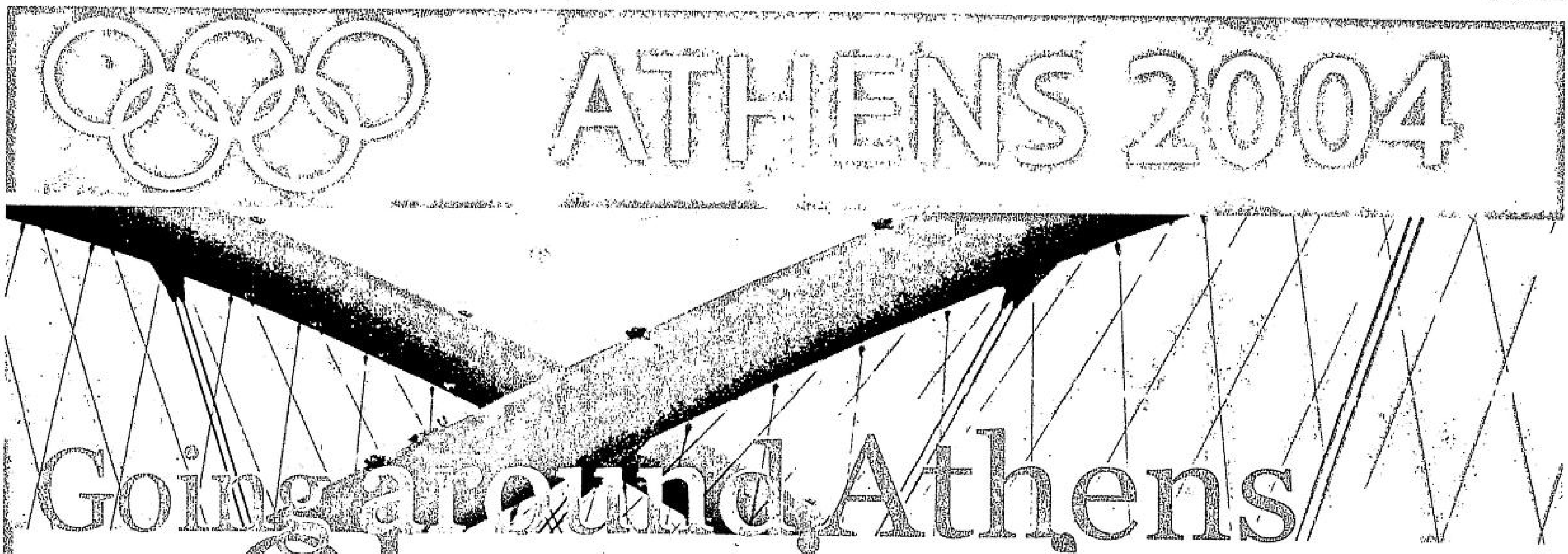

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GOING/J3

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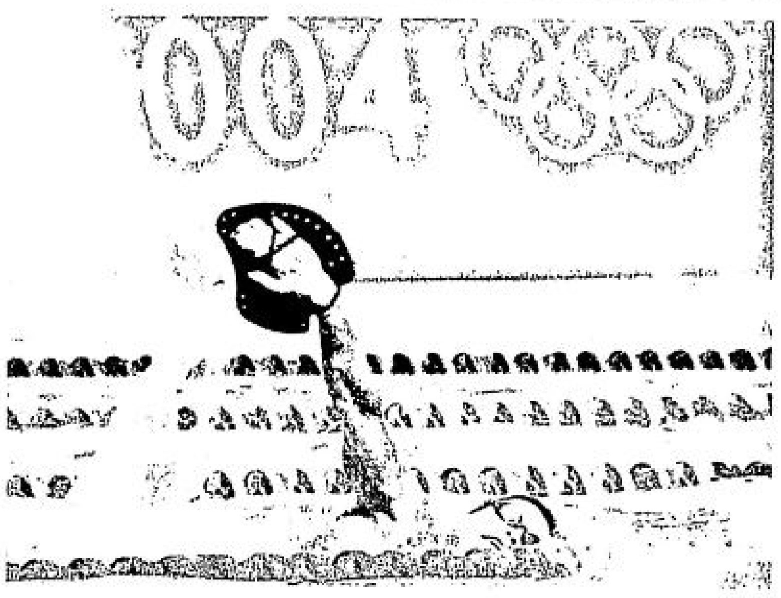
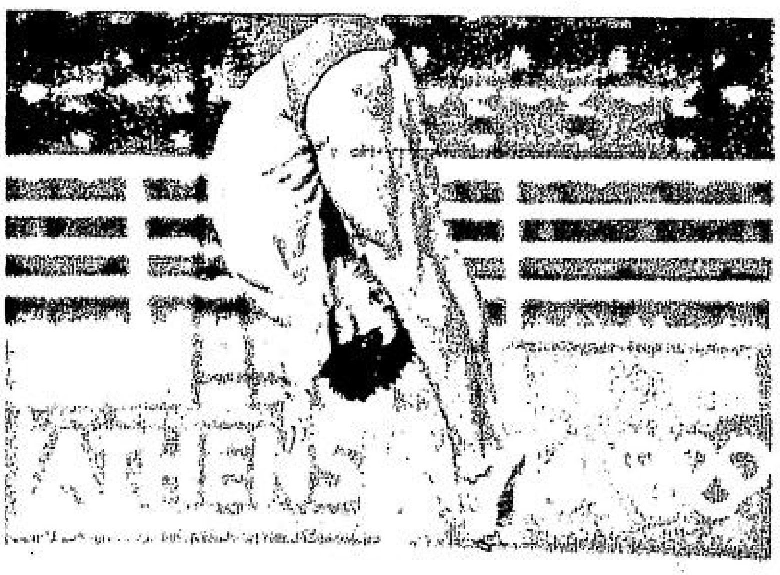


DUTCH swimmer Inge De Bruijn swims during a training session at the Olympic Aquatic Center in Athens



GERMAN Andreas Wels practices at the 3m spring board Aug 8, five days before the opening of the 2004 Olympic Games.

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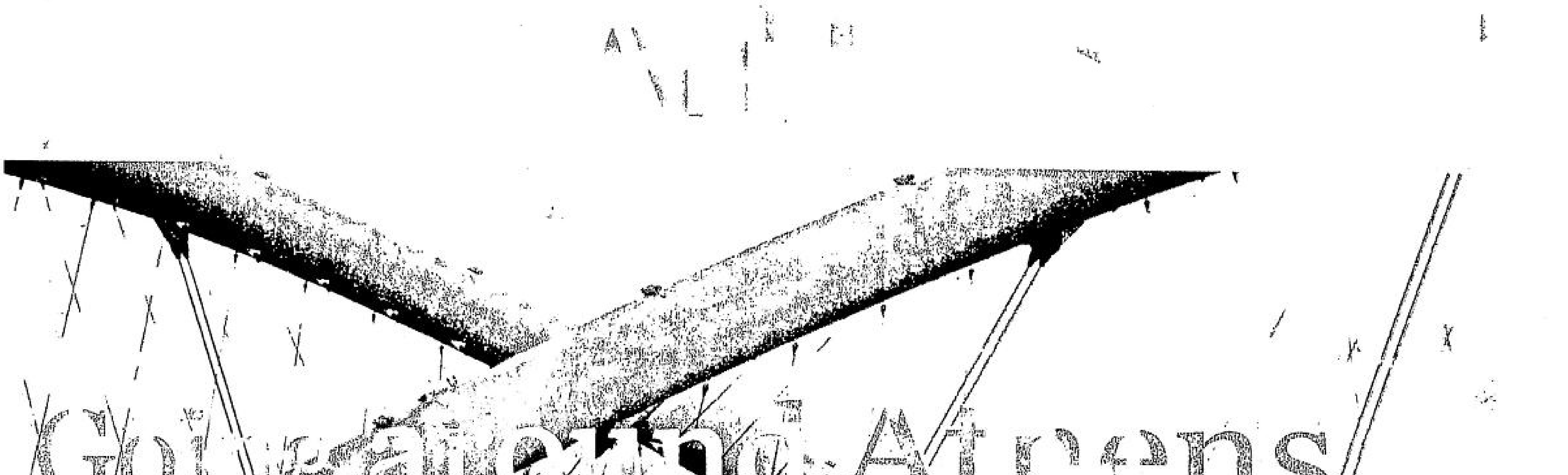

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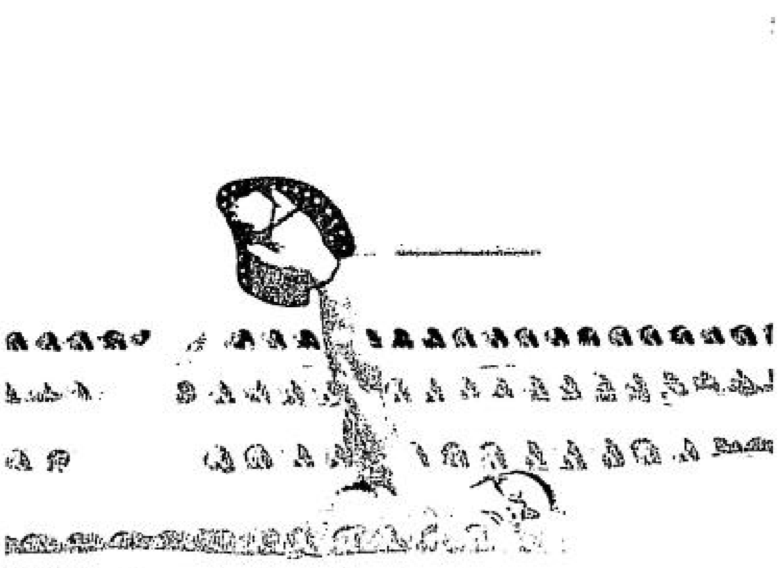

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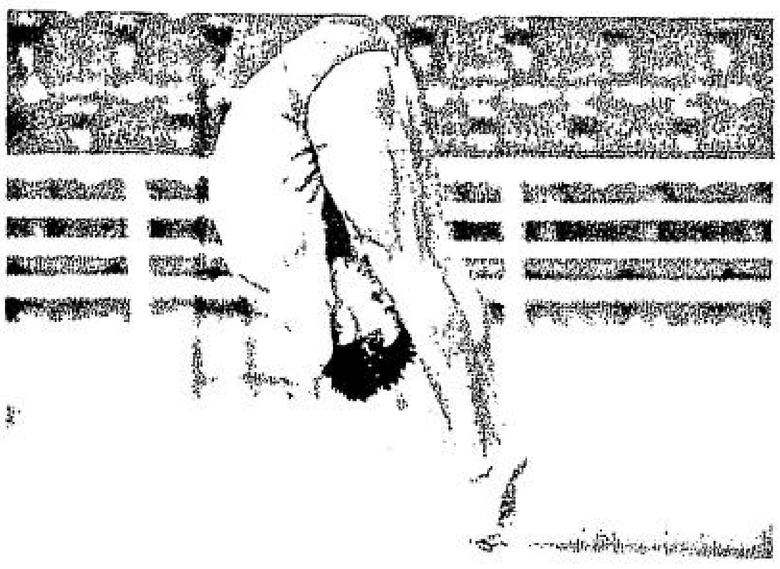
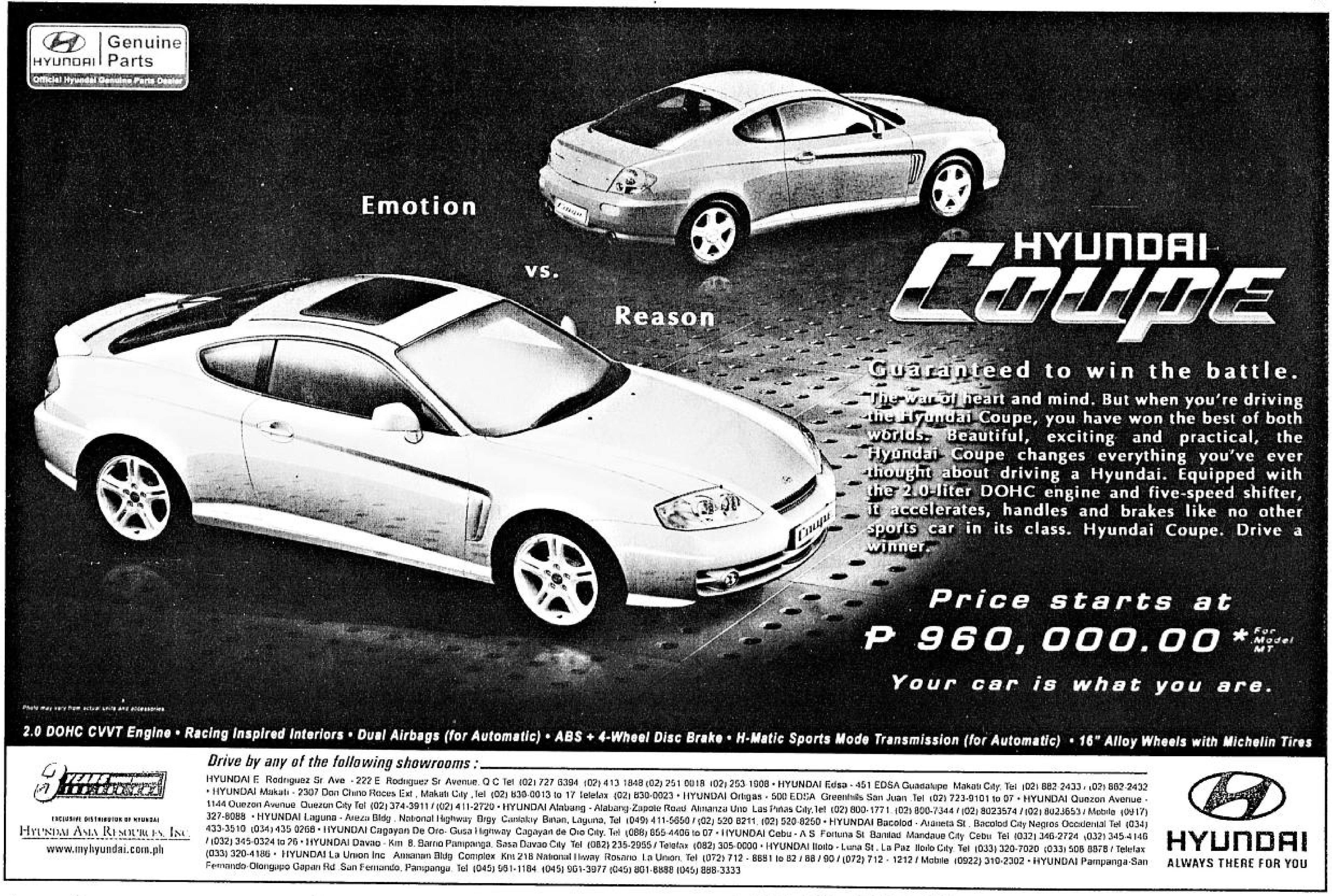


GERMAN Andreas Wels practices at the 3m spring board Aug 8, five days before the opening of the 2004 Olympic Games. AFP



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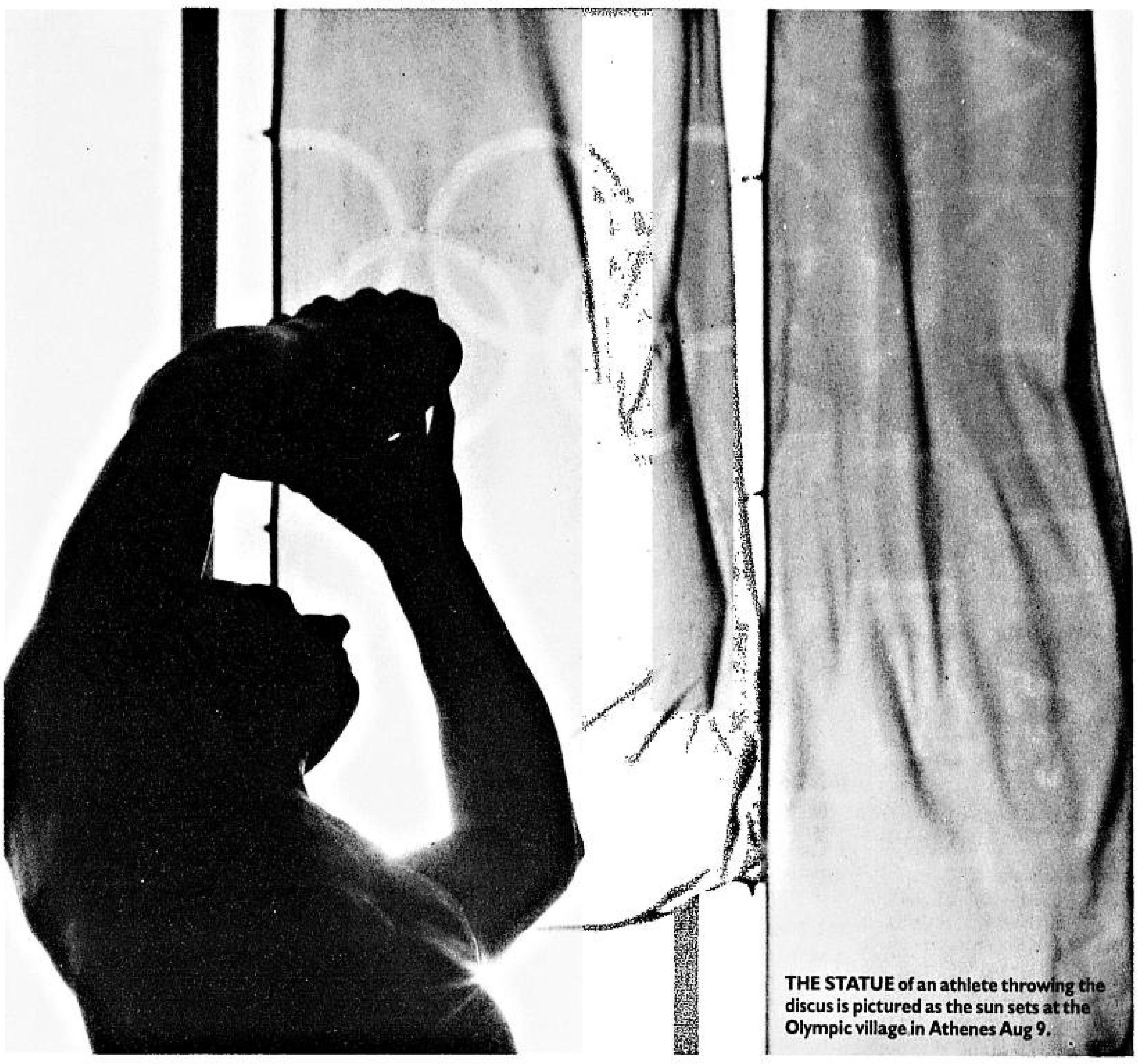


THE STATUE of an athlete throwing the discus is pictured as the sun sets at the Olympic village in Athenes Aug 9.

The 2004 Olympics at NBN 4

IN 17 days, 202 countries fielding 10,500 athletes shall compete in 37 sports. It's here, all set to engage Filipino sports enthusiasts to one of the greatest spectacles on earth. After news circulating on the impending coverage, the Athens 2004 Olympics comes to conquer Philippine TV via NBN Channel 4 from Aug. 13 to 29. The once-every-four-year event kicks off with pomp and ceremony on Aug. 13

For the first time since the first games were held, the Olympics returns to its mother city—Athens, Greece. The Olympic Games, originally formed as part of the religious festival of Zeus in Ancient Greece, present the world's most important athletic competition. True to its original aim, hostilities among Greek states stopped to give way to the Olympics. Up to now, it aims to promote world peace and foster friendships among participating nations. The Olympics has greatly evolved with its line-up of sports to compete in. The newest addition is the women's wrestling category and women's saber in the fencing competition.

The Philippine team is also geared for the Olympics with 16 athletes competing in boxing, taekwondo, swimming, athletics, shooting and archery. Leading the pack with high hopes of bagging the medals are boxers Romeo Brin, Violito Payla, Harry Tañamor and Chris Camat.

Gold, silver and bronze medals will distinguish each athlete and mark his country to the long, glorious Olympic history and list of victors. But before a new Olympic history is written, let's all prepare for the world celebration of the Athens 2004 Olympics made possible by Jemah Television Inc. and NBN 4.

Young Chinese team aims for medals, experience

BEIJING --When China's athletes leave Athens after the Olympics, they plan to be hauling not just a sackful of gold medals in their luggage but a sounder base on which to shine on home soil in 2008.

With 28 gold, China ranked third at the Sydney Olympics in 2000 behind the United States and Russia, and should once again challenge for a top three finish in Greece.

"Getting 28 gold medals, as we did in Sydney, is pretty hard. I'd say if we get 20 gold medals, that would be quite good," said Li Furong, vice president of the Chinese Olympic Committee.

"We overperformed in Sydney," he added. "And we also took the advantage of our rivals' mistakes. We will try our best to win as many gold medals as possible." Li cited Germany as China's biggest threat in defending their third-place finish.

But he stressed that winning medals was just one of two goals for the Chinese delegation, the other being to give Olympic experience to the young athletes who could be medal hopefuls for 2008.

"323 of them are first timers," he said of his 407 athletes.

While China has medal opportunities in the blue-riband events on the track and in the pool, its strength lies elsewhere — traditionally on the ping pong tables, the badminton courts and the diving platforms.

China's table tennis players, anchored by Zhang Yining and Wang Nan, the world's number one and two ranked women respectively, and world number one Ma Lin on the men's side, are once again expected to dominate.

They are in a position to make a clean sweep, with Wang citing team spirit for China's huge success in the sport.

"The Europeans only train together right before big tournaments. We have a much stronger team unity, and we operate as a cohesive unit," she said.

China is also one of the world's top badminton nations, featuring Thomas and Uber Cup winners, world champions and Olympic medalists, and they will challenge for podium places in Athens.

China is also one of the world's top badminton nations, featuring Thomas and Uber Cup winners, world champions and Olympic medalists, and they will challenge for podium places in Athens.

Their shuttlers sent out an ominous warning by winning the men's and women's finals at the Thomas and Uber Cup in Jakarta in May, with each team dropping only a game in the premier event.

China should also pick up medals in fencing, with world sabre champion Tan Xue in their squad, and the weightlifting, where China's women are dominant and have every chance of setting new world records.

Shang Shichun, however, will not be there, having been stripped of her three world championship gold medals after testing positive for drugs.

For China, the Athens Olympics is an important step on the road to Beijing, and a drug scandal will be a huge embarrassment after efforts to clean up their act.

In 2008 on home soil, China will not tolerate a flop, and efforts are already underway to groom the stars of tomorrow in the more high-profile events.

While bringing in a foreign coach has not yet happened, they have tested the waters this year with running legend Micheal Johnson being drafted in to give advice and tips to China's budding track athletes.

In Liu Xiang and Sun Yingjie, China already has two runners capable of winning medals in Greece.

Sun, a world championship 5,000m bronze medallist, is a strong contender in the 10,000m and the marathon.

Hurdler Liu recently broke the Asian 110m hurdles and is American Allen Johnson's main rival.

While China has always been competitive in lower profile Olympic sports, they have only ever competed with the world's best track and swimming stars under a doping cloud.

On the track, coach Ma Junren's stable of female runners smashed a string of world records in the 1990s, including in the 1,500m, 3,000m, 5,000m amd 10,000m, but there were constant murmurings about the systematic use of performance-enhancing drugs.

They were dumped from China's Sydney Olympic team and China won just one gold in track and field, in the women's 20km walk.

While Australia and the United States are expected to steal the headlines in the swimming pool, China will also be angling for success, with Qi Hui fired up after having her 200m breaststroke world record broken last month.

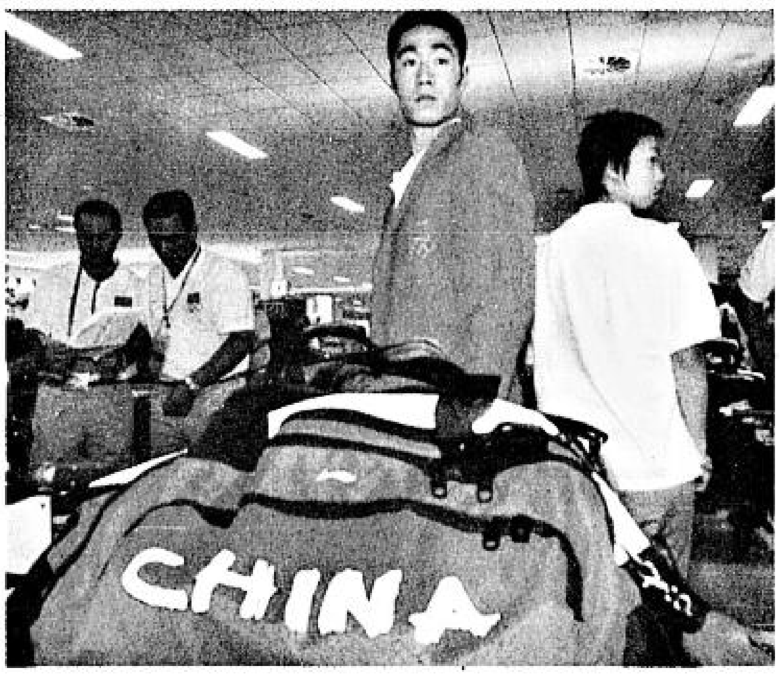
Luo Xuejuan is a potential gold medallist over the shorter breaststroke distances while Zhou Yafei has broken through in the rapid fire butterfly events. China's women's relay team are world champions.

Like Ma's runners, China's swimmers in the 1990s came under scathing criticism from rival nations who claimed they were involved in systematic doping.

Off the diving boards, China are a class apart and are likely to be fighting among themselves for the medals with Tian Liang heading a world class team. Double Sydney gold medallist Li Na, however, is missing.

Though unlikely to be among medal contenders, China's basketball squad will nevertheless attract attention courtesy of towering center Yao Ming, who has taken on idol status since beginning his NBA career in 2002.

China's sports bosses have tasked the national side with entering the elite top eight teams at Athens. *AFP*



CHINESE Olympic table tennis team member Wang Liqin arrives at Athens airport Aug. 8. More than 200 members of China's Olympic team arrived at Greece's capital on Sunday for the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.

REUTERS

ONCE AGAIN, WORLD SPORTS ICONS COME TOGETHER FOR A SHOT AT VICTORY.
AS WE CELEBRATE OUR GOLDEN YEAR, WE PROUDLY SUPPORT
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Going around Athens . . .

From page J1

Tram

Operating Hours – August 2004

24-hour operation

The tram connects the city center with the southern suburbs. It has two lines:

Line 1 (T1): Syntagma - Neos Kosmos - Palaio Faliro - Glyfada. Connects the city centre with the Coastal Zone.

Line 2 (T2): Peace and Friendship Stadium - Palaio Faliro - Helliniko. Connects Faliro Olympic Complex with Helliniko Olympic Complex.

The tram has connections with the ISAP and Metro lines. It contributes significantly to the improvement of traffic conditions and transport services in Athens.

The tram runs in "Olympic operation", i.e. on shorter than normal routes.

Buses and trolley buses

The body responsible for the planning, coordination and management of transport in Athens is OASA (Athens Urban Transport Organisation), which operates Ethel thermal buses, Ilpap Trolley Buses and Line 1 - ISAP. A network of some 320 buses adequately covers the needs of the metropolitan area of Athens, as well as certain areas outside city limits (such as the Thriasian Plain and the Mesogeia areas). Because of heightened demand for transport at Games-time, many transport services are enhanced and additional bus lanes are in operation in order to ensure fast and comfortable travel.

Buses

There are roughly 20 trunk lines starting from Athens center and serving the suburban municipalities. Local bus lines, that connect with the trunk lines serve also each municipality. There are also other bus lines connecting different points in the Athens metropolitan area (main lines) and also the intermuncipal lines.

Trolley buses

Operating Hours – August 2004

05:00 – 23:30*

Trolley Buses serve central areas of Athens and Piraeus.

THE TEMPLE of the Parthenon is reflected in a tourist's sunglasses in Athens

Fencing's favorites show their game faces

LONDON--Fencing will comprise 10 events in Athens where the women's individual sabre makes its Olympic debut and transparent masks will be used for the first time.

The world champion in women's sabre is Romanian Dorina Mihai whose winnings in Cuba, boosted by 10,000 euros because she wore one of the new masks designed to improve the sport's appeal for fans, allowed her to install central heating in her family's Bucharest flat.

Sada Jacobson, the first American women fencer to be ranked number one and one of two sisters on the sabre team, also has a good medal chance.

Another Romanian, Mihai Covaliu, is a hot favorite for the men's sabre after winning the gold in Sydney and being ranked number one this year. Covaliu finished second behind Vladimir Likashenko of Ukraine at the 2003 world championships.

European teams comprise eight of the top 10 in the world but only five are going to Athens, Russia being the favorite to retain its Olympic title.

In the foil competition, Peter Joppich of Germany will start as men's favorite after winning the world title, with three Italians -- Simone Vanni, Andrea Cassara and Salvatore Sanzo -- likely to mount strong challenges. Germany, Italy and China are favored in the team event after France won the 2000 gold.

The women's foil will revolve around the form of Italy's Valentina Vezalli, one of the sport's great performers. Second in 1996 and the winner in Sydney, Vezzali remains the fencer to beat and took the 2003 gold at the world championships.

Compatriot Giovanna Trillini has been in good enough form to improve on her bronze in Sydney while Vezzali will face a strong challenge from eastern Europe.

Women have an epee team event and France, led by Laura Flessel-Colovic, is probably the favorite to win gold.

Flessel-Colovic won team and individual gold in Atlanta and individual bronze in Sydney, and is determined to make up for a disappointing fifth place at the 2003 worlds. South Korea's Hyun Hee, world champion in 2002, will miss the Games through injury while the 2003 champion was Natalia Conrad of Ukraine.

France, second in Sydney and third in 1996, are favorites with Russia for the men's epee team gold.

Frenchman Fabrice Jeannet is the world individual champion after winning silver in 2002 and bronze in 2001. Athens will be his first Olympics. Reuters

WOMEN'S individual sabre as well as transparent masks make their Olympic debut.

European teams comprise eight of the top 10 in the world but only five are going to Athens, Russia being the favorite to retain its Olympic title.

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aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Fashion and function the name of the Vans game

EXTREME sports is relatively new in the country but has gained a following with the introduction of extreme games a few years back. Whether you are looking for the adventure of a lifetime, a thrill ride, or excitement that makes you stand at the edge of your seat, or just hungry for power sports, you will shout for extreme games. And there is no other way to start than with the right gear, Vans.

Founded by American Paul Van Doren in 1966, Vans has been designed and developed as a result of listening to consumers' needs for many of the features of Vans and the suggestions of signature skaters, BMX and mountain bikers, surfers and extreme sports enthusiasts.

Five-time X-Game gold medallist Bucky Lasek, with his first Vans signature skate shoe, along with other skaters Jim Greco, Dustin Dollin, Steve Caballero, Geoff Rowley, Filipino-American Willy Santos, and extreme sports athletes and enthusiasts swear by the fashion, function, performance, and revolution Vans technology has incorporated in its collection.

If men swear by the fashion and function of Vans, so do women X-Gamers with Vans Wesley, Town Lo, and Devon styles for women to choose from.

So if you want to look good and feel good on or off the playing fields of skateboarding, mountaineering, BMX riding, or motorbiking, shop now for Vans footwear, apparel, and accessories.

Vans is available at concept stores in SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, Alabang Town Center, Royal Sporting House outlets, the Shoe Shop at Power Plant Mall, Why Pay More? In Mandaluyong and other authorized dealers.

New product shows better dandruff treatment

THERE is really nothing more embarrassing than having to brush off white flakes on your dark suit or black dress. For most people, dandruff is a lifetime condition one has to learn to live with.

Dandruff is a chronic itchy condition of the scalp that affects about 50 percent of people worldwide at any given time. The exact etiology of dandruff remains debatable but dermatologists agree that it is associated with stress, hormone production, diet and fungal colonization. The latter has become the subject of many studies because of its important role in the pathogenesis of the dermatologic disease. Although dandruff cannot be totally treated, the fungus that causes it can be properly controlled.

There are many products in the market claiming to be effective in treating dandruff, but only few actually treat the fungal cause of this disease.

One recently introduced product in the market, which effectively treats dandruff, is Stieprox shampoo. This product contains ciclopirox olamine, which, in a study conducted in Seoul, South Korea, showed effective in treating mild to moderate dandruff. The same study also noted that Stieprox shampoo did not cause any adverse effects.

What differentiates Stieprox from other anti-dandruff shampoos is its higher cosmetic acceptability. Participants of the Korean study observed that Stieprox does not cause hair dryness, unpleasant odor and discomfort.

Further, Stieprox is specially formulated to be mild enough so as not to alter treated (dyed and permed) hair, giving the more trendy patients an improved option in dandruff management.

Ciclopirox olamine is an anti-fungal agent from the hydroxypyridone group. Previous studies have shown that it is effective in treating different dermatological diseases such as jock itch (tinea cruris), athlete's foot (tinea petlis) and ringworm (tinea corporis).

Stieprox shampoo is manufactured by Stiefel Philippines Inc.

To know more about dandruff and Stieprox, visit your dermatologist or call Stiefel Philippines Inc hotline at 1-800-10-STIEFEL (provincial) and 635-7346 (Metro Manila, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays to Fridays. E-mail action-aid.ph@stiefel.com.

Gold Quill
2004

ABS-CBN GETS GOLD QUILL FOR STATION ID

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp was conferred a Gold Quill Award of Excellence during the 2004 Gold Quill Awards organized by the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Philippines. The network received the citation for its 50 Years Station ID under the audio-visual division. Receiving the award from IABC director Marian Catedral (right) and board of judges representatives lawyer Melvin Martin (2nd from right) are Jason Telmo, post-production specialist, Melanie Adriano, promo group head of corporate image and special events, Carminda de Leon, ABS-CBN VP for creative communications management, Danie Sedilla-Cruz, promo specialist for corporate image, and Johnny delos Santos, senior manager for integrated broadcast design.

GO CHOCO NUT ON 'STARSTRUCK'

'Starstruck' winners Jennylyn Mercado (2nd from left) and Mark Herras (4th from left) are the new celebrity endorsers of Star Choco Nut, one of the latest products of Magnolia Inc, a subsidiary of San Miguel Corp. They are now being featured in a TV commercial that shows Choco Nut's chocolaty and nutty goodness. Also shown during the signing are (seated, from left) Ida R. Henares, head of GMA Artist Center, Elias Segundo, president and GM of Magnolia, Wilma Galvante, vice president, Entertainment TV, and Manuel P. Quioge, president, GMA Marketing and Productions Inc. Standing, from left, are Lydia Mercado, Jennylyn's mother, Aileen Ricasata, senior product manager, Claudio Herras, Mark's father, and Edmond Tobias, product manager.

KIDS AT ART AT BURGER KING

Burger King presidential executive assistant Roy Emata and Kids At Art big boss Rita Badilla-Gudiño paint their faces over BK's accommodation of the 12th Kids At Art Summer Workshop in three Burger King restaurants. KAA conducts basic drawing, painting, and sculpture and crafts summer art workshops for kids 5 to 12 years old. Last summer KAA was in 7 Metro Manila venues, including BK Timog, BK Welcome Rotonda, and BK E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City.

Scholars' reunion

THE ATENEO Alumni Scholars Association (Aasa) invites its scholar graduates from 1991 until 2004 to a reunion on Saturday, Aug. 14 at the Ateneo de Manila University campus. This will be the first time that the association will gather together all its graduates for a day of fun and entertainment. Since its inception in 1987, Aasa has been sponsoring the education of selected college students at the Ateneo de Manila through its Scholars-for-Scholars Scholarship Fund (SSSF). For more details, call Jona Gonzales at 426-4324 or 426-6001 local 5156 or e-mail asf-sssf@admu.edu.ph

FUNDACION CENTRO FLAMENCO'S 'PEÑA'

True to its objective in promoting flamenco in the Philippines, Fundacion Centro Flamenco will hold this year's 'peña' on Friday, Aug. 13 at 1196 Tamarind Road, Dasmariñas Village, Makati City. Dubbed 'Sol', this activity aims to uphold the tradition of Spanish dances in the country. The www.centroflamencophil.com website defines 'peña' as 'a casual yearly reunion of teachers, students, musicians and aficionados of flamenco.' Established in 2001, Fundacion Centro Flamenco has been actively spearheading the growth and development of the flamenco dance locally through various classes at its center. Fundacion Centro Flamenco's president and founder is Emma Estrada. The center is housed in the same building where Instituto Cervantes also holds its classes on Spanish language proficiency, as mandated by the Spanish Embassy. For more information on flamenco classes and Fundacion Centro Flamenco, call 751-2243 or log on to www.centroflamencophil.com.

UCC COFFEE
Café Terrace

UCC COFFEE BREWS AT PASEO CENTER

UCC Café Terrace opened recently at the ground floor of the Paseo Center on Paseo de Roxas corner Sedeno Street, Makati City. The 3-level coffee shop has a 140-seating capacity that boasts of chic interiors and sophisticated ambiance. UCC Café Terrace is an all-day dining coffee shop that serves siphon-method prepared coffee and only in UCC dishes like Chicken Wakadori Salad, Seafood Soup Spaghetti and Yakinika Rice Plate. Unique pastries and desserts are also available. The store is open from 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Visit the other UCC Café Terrace shop at the Forbes Town Center in Bonifacio Global City or any of the UCC Vienna Cafes at Tomas Morato, Quezon City, Connecticut Street in Greenhills and The Podium in Ortigas Center.

Rustan's end-of-season sale in August

RUSTAN'S Department Store, the country's premiere upscale lifestyle house, is blowing its horn to all shopaholics as it ends the season with a fashion bang. Prime pieces from Men's and Ladies' fashion, Young Adults and Children and Home departments are now available at special prices from Aug. 14 to 31.

Savvy fashionistas of the young generation out to make stylish impressions can choose from a variety of brands from local and imported designer outfits by matching ultra chic designs by U Girls and U Men, sexy pieces from Xoxo, equally hip Soul Edge and more. Some fashionable ensembles from prestigious labels for men and women of distinct sense of style like Jill, Oleg Cassini, Culte Femme, 4YOU, Salt and Dunhill are also participating in Rustan's end-of-season hurrah.

Rustan's Home picks out select pieces from its list of must-have bed and bath items to dinnerware and kitchenware to its ultra elegant décor to make anyone's house more like their dream homes. Rustan's private label for kids, Jam, Rustanette and Rustan's Jr and the equally top-rated and most visited section, Toy Department, will also give its share of treats in this shopper's weekend.

The exciting end-of-season sale, which is ongoing, is the best chance to shop for much sought after stylish labels and items for everyone. The best brands in the world at the best prices paired with the best service in town make this limited-time sale an experience that only Rustan's Department Store can give.

Visit Rustan's Department Store in Makati, Shangri-La Plaza, Cubao, Harrison Plaza, Alabang, Robinson's Place Manila, and Cebu.

ProductFILES

Ocean: Made for new discoveries

WHEN going on weekend trips, a small box like Ocean 80 or Ocean 100 is often enough. If you're a skier, you certainly need a longer model, like Ocean 700, and there's even a special version of Ocean for carving skis, Ocean 600. Additionally, the slim style of the longer boxes allows them to be combined with bike carriers or water sport carriers on the roof! Consequently, there's an Ocean for every occasion-whether you're off to the day nursery or the ski slopes, whether you need space for your golf bag or your holiday luggage.

Whichever model you choose, you'll have an extremely well equipped box that's easy to handle. Thule Ocean offers a design with a lowered base well integrated with the shape of the car. A completely new type of snap mounting-Easy Snap-makes fitting the box incredibly easy. The cover opens and closes gently thanks to Thule's patented special suspension - Dual Force.

Are you ready to make new discoveries? Make them with Thule Ocean. For inquiries, call 744-6367.